



ଚିରନ୍ତନ

Chirantan - Newsletter

ଓଁ ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ଓଁ

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ଯଥା ଦୀପୋ ନିବାତସ୍ଥୋ ନେଜ୍ଜତ ସୋମପା ସ୍ମୃତା
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JathA dIpo nibAtastho nengate somapA smrutA
Jogino Jatachitasya Junjato JogamAtmanah |6-19|

ଏହି ଶ୍ଳୋକଟି ଭଗବତ୍ ଗୀତାର ୧୫ ଅଧ୍ୟାୟରେ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା କରାଯାଇଛି । ଶ୍ରୀ ଭଗବାନ କହିଲେ - ପବନ ନଥିବା ସ୍ଥାନରେ ଦୀପତି ଯେପରି ଶିର ଭାବରେ ଜଳେ, ଚିକିତ୍ସ ସୁଖା ହଲଚଳ ହୁଏ ନାହିଁ, ସେହିପରି ମନ ସଂଯମ କରିଥିବା ଯୋଗୀ ସତତ ଶିର ଚିତ୍ତରେ ପରମାତ୍ମାଙ୍କ ଧ୍ୟାନରେ ରହେ । ସେ ଚିକିତ୍ସ ହେଲେ ଧ୍ୟାନରୁ ବିଚଳିତ ହୁଏ ନାହିଁ ।

The above sloka is discussed in stanza 19 in the 6th chapter of Bhagabat Gita. The Lord explains – Like an unflickering flame of lamp in a windless place a Yogi whose mind is under control and who is united with his inner Self mediates undisturbed.

Chirantan, The Childhood Years:

It seems like yesterday, although seven years have been passed since Chirantan was born. Like all newborn babies this baby of mind did not know its life's journey. Now Chirantan has grown up learning to walk, to talk and to think. We thank you all, our friends who contributed to the growth of Chirantan. This is our fifteenth issue. Like all other previous issues, this has samples of various religious and philosophical articles.

The continuity of the monthly bhajan program at Baltimore Jagannath temple has become possible by participation of devotees like you and the support of temple priests Nrusingha Chaitanya Prabhu, Mahashakti Prabhu and his family, and Sunita Devi. We sincerely appreciate your contribution and noble thoughts.

September is Childrens' Month:

Like every year we will devote the month of September for the children to showcase their talents and religious understanding. We would like parents to prepare their children for this event. They may sing a prayer, tell a story about any religious character, or talk about their favorite Gods and Goddesses. We

also encourage older children to do research on some other religion and compare similarities and differences giving at least three examples. If you have any other ideas to share, please do so.

JOGA News:

JOGA (Jagannath Organization for Global Awareness) members Debaki Nandan Chowdhury, Naresh Das, Nrusingha Mishra, Bandita Mishra and Bigyani Das presented bhajan at ISKCON temple, New Vrindavan on May 28th and 29th, 2005. The temple visitors as well as priests were very much impressed and requested them to visit the temple and organize such programs again.

JOGA members organized a picnic at Rock Creek National Park on June 25th, 2005. There was volley ball competition between Germantown versus rest of the world. The ladies engaged themselves in "padyAnta" and gossiping. Nrusingha Mishra and Pratap Dash took



the lead in organizing the picnic and Anjana Chowdhury and Bobbita Nayak took the lead in organizing food. About 25 families participated in the picnic. All brought food and all enjoyed.

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ବନ୍ଦେ ପଙ୍କଜ ଚରଣ

ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, କଲମ୍ପିଆ, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ

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ଦେଖ ଆସୁଛନ୍ତି ହୋ

ପ୍ରତାପ ଦାଶ, ଜର୍ମାନଟାଉନ୍, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ

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ହେବ ଭାଗ୍ୟ ମୋର ସତେ ରଙ୍ଗଧର
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ଚାହୁଁ ଚାହୁଁ ଚାଲିଗଲା ଚାରିକୋଶ ବାଟ

କାନନ ମିଶ୍ର, କଲମ୍ପିଆ, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ

ଚାଲିଲି ମୁଁ ଦେଖୁଦେଖୁ ପୃଥିବୀର ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଗହଣା
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“ଓଁ ନମଃ ଶିବାୟ”, ଶରୀରେ ଜାଗତ ମୋର ଶତସିଂହ ବଳ
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(ମୂଳ କବିତାଟି ଲେଖକଙ୍କ ପରାମର୍ଶ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ଶତକତା ୮୦
ଭାଗରୁ ଅଧିକ ସଂଶୋଧିତ କରାଯାଇଛି ।)

Grand Ma

Debanjan Nandan Chowdhury, Germantown, MD

Grand Ma,
My Grand Ma!
She eats all mangos,
I don't like it.

Grand Ma,
My Grand Ma!
She wears glasses,
I don't like it.

Grand Ma,
My Grand Ma!
She can't walk,
I don't like it.

Grand Ma,
Loving Grand Ma,
Caring Grand Ma,
My Grand Ma!
I love you too much.

Gandhiji's Birthday

Ruchi Kohli, Columbia, MD

Blessings were sent for this world today
As spirit had formed incarnating the way
With silence he spoke as I am told
Releasing a nation where freedom would reign
Nonviolent by nature as independence resides
Opening all doors where equality felt home
Truth built foundations with actions that display
Dwelling this home was none other than love
Birth of this child made nation be born

My Beloved Guru's 50th Birthday

Kanan Mishra, Columbia, MD

Soft, sweet voices vibrate in my heart,
As my Guru's birthday approaches.
Fifty stars dot the sky,
But their rays dazzle forever.
Infinite rays build columns of light
A path of sacred flight
There, find silence and serenity,
Teaching, grace and enlightenment
Sustained by Guru's truth and purity.

My Definition of Religion

Mrunali Das, Columbia, MD

In my opinion, all religions are connected. Although I do not have an opinion as to whether there is one God or many Gods, I do believe that there is a certain force. It does not necessarily have a shape or form, but when needed, It can take one. I refer to God as it because it is a boy and a girl, as well as both. It is everywhere, and yet not there at all.

Secondly, I believe in respect for everyone, everything, and every belief. I refuse to tell other people that my religion is better than theirs because it isn't. Everyone has his or her own personal belief and that should be respected no matter how unusual it might seem. It also doesn't matter if I don't believe in something that the other person does. However, I do believe that everyone should show respect for everything, and that's the one thing that I plan to tell people. Respect is very, very important.

Also, you should not need a go-between to express yourself to God. If God is so powerful then it will be able to listen to you directly. You are free to become a priest or priestess. In terms of the needs for a priest or priestess, they would be a resource for learning about your religion or a certain religion.

These are the basics of my simple religion. It doesn't matter if you disagree, as long as you respect my beliefs and don't judge me. Thank you for the enormous amount of time and patience needed to read and comprehend this article.

Darkness

Shashwati Das, Columbia, MD

When darkness is upon you
How do you feel?
Lonely, scared, or sad
By what darkness may bring

After the loss of loved ones
How do you feel?
Lonely, scared, sad
Like darkness is with you

Willow trees had the night sky
with darkness inside of them
bring a feeling unwanted
like evil or loneliness



Remember though
that darkness
is a feeling that you can control
So try to keep it away.

Worship by Serving God's Children

Debabrata Choudhury, Silver Spring, MD

Bhagavat-Geeta Chapter 6, Verse 31: Sarva-bhuta-Sthitam yo mam bhajati ekatvam asthitah, Srvatha vartamanopi as yogi mayi vartate. Meaning: A yogi who, by being in oneness, engages in the worshipful service of me situated in all beings, remains always in me under all circumstances.

Sree-Bhagavatam also says: I am present in all beings as the supersoul and Iswara. Those who worship my "Pratima" with sixteen items and in whichever way they may, and not me situated in beings, in reality, put ghee in ashes, i.e., is engaged in futility; I am never happy with it.

I have been, personally, trying to engage in the worshipful service of God by serving a part of all beings, the human beings. Based on my experiences of social activities during 1962-71 (described latter), I wondered if society can be improved through so much fun, why not spread the idea to do that in all localities! The website www.unitedhuman.org is based on that concept. To form one Chapter of the proposed United Humankind Organization, as an example, we formed one Divisional Committee in Bangladesh on March 29, 2005. By May 30, there were 387 committees formed at various levels. We are trying to make a committee in each neighborhood of that country by a branching method. Please read the above website for details on "Structure." "Activities and Services" are also in that website. Especially, after raising money in various ways, including businesses and industries, we shall rehabilitate the most unfortunate ones.

As I see by analyzing my life from the ages of 5/6, I was born to be concerned with others/society. Starting from that age, I organized kids' games, then a football team, then pujas, picnics, etc. During my childhood, I noticed that in my village there was a broken part in an important road. One had to take off one's shoes to walk through the mud and water of the broken part and then go to a pond (water reservoir) to wash the mud off the feet before wearing the shoes

again. This was going on for several years. This nuisance could be gotten rid of in a few hours, if somebody took the initiative to invite others to jointly repair the road. Then I noticed that males of all ages were in groups in street corners engaged in gossips and nasty chats. Immediately after my I.Sc. examination, I bought various indoor and outdoor sporting goods and engaged them in games and sports. When I proposed to form an organization to improve society, i.e., lives for all, I was cruelly ridiculed by some. However, after organizing a lot of fun over three years, finally, I could slowly engage them in social activities like repairing roads, cleaning ponds and cultivating fish, tutoring, establishing a library, a club house, and a school, helping the hosts or organizers of various functions, including marriage and other ceremonies. We even worked in the fields to earn money. Most families in that village did not send their children to high schools. I started honoring all those who graduated from various levels, including the Primary or elementary school. This had a tremendous effect on education. Within a decade, there were many Master's degree holders and professors. Inspiration is contagious. Even when I was not directly involved, the idea of social improvement went on. Youngsters continued the torch and built more institutions.

TRUTH IS ONE-TRADITIONS ARE MANY

Ramkrishna Tumuluri, VA

Dr. Radhakrishnan, Scholar-Philosopher-President of Bharat, has aptly described that we might be following many religions but TRUTH or GOD-the supreme principle of consciousness, is one and one alone. We may call him as per our tradition "Vishnu, Shiva, Jehovah, or Allah." That is the inner meaning of "Ekam, vipra bahuda vadanti." The Christian description "All roads lead to Rome" interpreted in a broader context fits into the above Vedic concept.

In the Bharatiya tradition, when Sandhyavandaman is performed we conclude "Akasat patitam toyam yadhagacchati sagaram sarva deva namaskarah Kesvam pratigacchati"-as the rain waters that fall from the sky they become tributaries and flow through rivers to reach the great ocean, all salutations offered to whosoever God it might

Be, reach the same Kesava (the Ocean)!" The moral contained in this is that Istadaivata Aradhana is the sin aqua- lack of worship. It is a kind of Democratic freedom I may state. Each has the right and can choose his or her path for salvation. Atanam Atma uddahrayet is the Bhagavad Gita vakya. This emphasizes the need for tolerance of others faiths. The realization of Jagannath as the Lord of all is through self-chosen individual paths of worship.

Let us bear in mind that in Bharatiya Sampradaya we are advised, not to speak about one's own religion to any one unless asked, and even when asked, speak to other's of his or her religion in a way that would not hurt or offend the sentiments of other religionists! Tolerance and forbearance are two sides of the same coin. We in Bharatiya Sampradaya do not believe in conversion of others to our religion or mode of thinking, for it breeds hatred and is ingrained in the thought that your religion is better than others. Dharma sastras say by birth one's religion is determined. You are born into a Religion. Religion is your mother. If we want others to get converted, it is like asking them to declare that their mother is

not good enough! Is there any instance of mother not being true to her children! We might have heard of disloyal sons, not Mothers deserting their children! Moreover if God is ONE for all, why fight to convert one, from one god to another!

The entire humanity, the whole Universe, living or non-living, is the expression of that supreme consciousness the Jagannath-Omk tat sat, Aham Brahmosmi, Sivoham, Pragyam Brahma- Mahavakyas of Vedic moral- and all Bhayakaras have interpreted these Mahavakyas and said Pragyanam Brahma. The ultimate truth is for everyone to realize that "I and HIM" are one and the same. Hence Adi Sankara iterated the Advaita Tatva. In his commentary on Chandogya Upanishad (1-1-10) Adi Sankara remarks that those who meditate on OMKARA, even without grasping the principle behind it will gain much benefit though it might not be to the same extent as that gained, meditate on it knowing by those who its meaning. OM is Jagannath and Viswanath too.

Since "I and He" is one, the purpose of all religions should be to train Humanity to this type of thinking instead of thinking them think that One's God alone as GOD and all others GODS are inferior to his. Let us desist from creating Gods!

The great Patanjali in his Yoga Sutra brings home this point "Visvam darpana drisyamana nagari tulyam nijantargatam pasyannani." The world is like a mirror reflection of a City or has the same reality as the reflection in a mirror or is swapnavit, dreamlike, as others state. Realize that the world is a passing show, we are, like as Shakespeare said, Actors coming on to the stage playing our role. We come and go. If we only realize that we are part of the same supreme consciousness we would have known the ephemeral nature of all that exists. When the Sermon on the Mount states that the Kingdom of God, is within you, it breathes the same spirit Nijnatargatam passyannani of Patanjali or Vedic expressions galore.

Temples are the pillars of our Religion and culture. Our temples ought to become torch bearers of the Universal thought contained in our Sampradaya, Philosophy, Bhakti, Bhajan, Kirtan and all intricate subtleties of Sastric rituals, from birth to death while explaining the benefits that accrue from observance of such rituals.

Except Bharat, in no other country of the world Ancient cultures could survive the vicissitudes of time and change. The chief reason for the continuance of our Sanatana Dharma is to be found in the Temple culture we have nourished, from times immemorial. Temples have been the sustainers of our culture and it is our Dharma to protect them with all our might and also mite too, so that we may pass on to the future generations the Universal spirit underlying Vedic Dharma which preached Vasudhaika Kutumbakam.

OM SANTI, SANTI, SANTIHI

Servant of Jagannath
Ramkrishna Tumuluri

JOGA Educational Programs in Orissa

Hemant Biswal and Dharendra Kar

We at Jagannath Organization for Global Awareness (JOGA) are working on many educational programs in Orissa to improve the quality of science education in the state. We have reported three of our recent projects and more detailed information are available at our website (www.jogaworld.org).

Teacher's refresher course in Berhampur: In association with Govt. of Orissa, we have been organizing teacher's refresher course in various districts in Orissa since the program started in May 2001. Till date we have completed eleven districts such as: Bhadrak, Keonjhar, Jajpur, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Khurda, Ganjam, Jagatsingpur, Kendrapara, Dhenkanal, and Bolangir. The details of recent refresher course in Ganjam circle are given here. The Ganjam district refresher course was held at City High School, Berhampur during 19-21 April, 2005. The convener was Mr. Balmiki Pradhan, C.I. of Schools, Ganjam, and Dr. N. Barik, Reader in Pol. Sc., RDW College, BBSR was the co-convener of the program. Academic co-coordinator was Dr. Bholanath Padhi, Reader in Physics, Khalikote College. In addition to various faculties from Khalikote College, Dr. Ananta Ram Panda, Reader in Physics, S.V.M. College and Dr. S.K. Mishra, Reader in Zoology, Dr. S.C. Das from Salepur College taught in the refresher course. Multimedia presentation was made in various topics like physics, chemistry and biology. In total 84 science teachers from various high schools attended the course.

Talent search scholarship in Bhadrak District: JOGA supported the Maheswar memorial talent search scholarship for tenth grade students in Bhadrak district. An objective type test was held in Ichapur high school and based on their performance following fifteen students are awarded scholarship of Rs. 1000.00 each. Total 150 students appeared from 50 high schools. We thank Dr. P.C. Das and Mr. Satyanarayan Panigrahi the President and Secretary respectively of Maheswar memorial trust for their sincere support. Here is the list of 2004 awardees. The application procedure and the deadline for 2005 examination are available at our above website.



1. Manoj Ku. Das, Ranital High School, Bhadrak
 2. Rashmirekha Sahu, Berhampur High school, Ichhapur
 3. Satish Kumar Nanda, Zilla High school, Bhadrak
 4. Bhargavi Mallick, Govt. Girls High school, Bhadrak
 5. Subhrajit Mohanty, B.M. High school, Bagurai, BDK.
 6. Ashish Ku. Sethi, C.R.S. High school Tihidi
 7. Susanta Kumar Nayak, Mathadiha. High school Chandabali
 8. Soumyaranjan Das, A.B. High school, Basudebpur (Student receiving prize money from Arjun Sethi, M.P.)
 9. Ambika Prasad Mahakud, Mandari High school, Mandari
 10. Dipti ranjan Khatua, Bania high school, Bania
 11. Utkalika Rout, R.N.V.P. Paliabindha
 12. Ajit Ku. Biswal, K.S. High school, Adalpanka, Agarpada
 13. Susri Ratnamanjari Senapati, Chandabali girls high school, Chandabali
 14. Manjulata Sahu, B.C.U.V.N. Mandari
 15. Prasanta Ku. Nayak, Kadabaranga high school
 16. Soumya Prasad Bhoi, B.C. High school Ertal
- Sr.No. 15 & 16 are joint winners and have been awarded Rs.500.00 each

Satellite Science center in Bhubaneswar: This is an appeal letter to establish satellite science center at Unit I high school in

Bhubaneswar, which will also cater to the needs of Unit I high school, and nearby high schools in the city. We call upon everyone to disseminate this modest appeal for funds to family and friends that may have some association with Bhubaneswar or Orissa. The highlights of the proposed satellite science center are:

1. The laboratory will have the state of the art laboratory instruments for all the basic science subjects.
2. Besides Unit I high school students, the laboratory will be shared by other nearby high schools in Bhubaneswar on routine basis.
3. The cost of supplying equipments and chemicals etc is approximately \$10,000.00.
4. The science center will also be used to organize various sciences Olympiad and to promote competitive science education among students.
5. The progress and the impact of science center will be notified to all the sponsors through newsletter and emails.

Those among us who have been to a High School in Bhubaneswar might be able to recall our Science class and name some of our favorite teachers. When we went to Unit 1 High School Bhubaneswar, we distinctly remembered the Science Laboratory and some of the experiments demonstrating properties of gases and laws of physics. This was in early seventies. Some of us have gone back and revisited our alma mater. To our surprise, yet not unexpectedly, there has been a crisis of funds in the interim and there does not seem to be any Science Laboratory any more. The laboratory and the equipment have disappeared in 1980s and 90s. It is ironical that we had a fully functioning science laboratory imparting experimental basis for the high school level sciences in 1970s. Yet in 2005 we have government- funded high schools in capital of Orissa, Bhubaneswar that cannot afford to have a Science Laboratory that we could have in 1970s.

Some of us have gone back to the school and talked to the Head Master and expressed our concerns and willingness to help. We can get a Science Laboratory up and running for US\$10,000.00. We understand the logistics of keeping this project afloat in the long run will be daunting. For this we have to appeal and take help from Unit 1 High School alumni that live and work in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and local organizations. This will be a model for science education in a government-funded high school in the state.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000.00, of which we have raised \$5126.00. Here is a list of donors contributed for satellite science center and other JOGA educational projects.

1. Sukant and Snajeeta Mohapatra, NJ
2. Chinmaya Samal and Anita Panda, MO
3. Debaki and Anjana Choudhury, MD
4. Naresh and Bigyani Das, MD
5. Anonumous donor, VA
6. Deepak and Leene Dhala, VA
7. Anshuman Das, NY
8. Dharendra and Madhumita Kar, NC
9. Hemant Biswal, VA
10. Gatikrushna and Jangyaseni Tripathy, MD
11. Debaraj and Urmila Sahu, MD
12. Sandeep and Mousumi Pattanaik, MD
13. Sanjay Das, TX
14. Mihir Das, CA

15. Urmila Mohapatra, VA
 16. Kailash and Meenakshi Sahu, MD
 17. Debanand and Deepa Das, MD

The funding for the laboratory will be managed by Jagannath Organization for Global Awareness (JOGA). One of its missions is to support educational projects in Orissa. Donations in any denomination can be sent to JOGA, 9535 Ridgeview Dr., Columbia, MD 21046. JOGA is tax-exempt organization and hence all your donations are tax deductible in USA. Please contact one of us for further information.

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 Mr. Amar Senapati jagakalia@yahoo.com
 Mr. Mihir Dash mihirdash@hotmail.com

Jagannath Temples around the World

Our goal is to introduce various Jagannath temples to the devotees besides Jagannath Dham, Puri Orissa (<http://164.100.140.7/jagannath/>), which needs no introduction. Here is the information about two temples. More will come in later versions of Chirantan.

Jagannath Temple in New Delhi: The temple offers daily puja rituals of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra. Also they have guest accommodation facility along with prasada availability for nominal fees.

Address: Hauz Khas village road (near IIT Delhi), New Delhi
 Ph. (11) 26966978

Hindu Cultural Center of North America: Recently Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra have been installed at Sarbajana mandir, in Huntsville, AL. The details of the temple are: 14854 Smith Drive, Harvest, AL 35742

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Ph. (256) 771 7772, www.hccna.com

Email: info@hccna.com

Bhajan Program sponsors:

Thanks to all the families for their participation and contribution for the success of the bhajan program. Our heartfelt thanks to the following families for sponsoring feasts on different months:

*Babita and Prasanna Nayak, MD
 Sukanti and Surendra Ray, MD
 Paramaeta and Sashi Sahoo, VA
 Sujata and Surya Nayak, MD*

Food For thought:

Happiness keeps you sweet
 Trials keep you strong
 Sorrows keep you human
 Failures keep you humble
 Success keeps you glowing
 But only God keeps you going
 - Anonymous

Bhajan Schedule: 3rd Saturday of Every Month

**Place: Jagannath Temple, 200 Bloomsbury Ave,
 Catonsville, MD 21228. Tel: (410) 744 1624**

6:00 – 9:30 PM - Bhajan, Arati, Prabachan, Prasad

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Chirantan is the biannual Newsletter of Jagannath Organization for Global Awareness (JOGA).