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## **More From Russia The Holy Name and Anti-Pollution**

[A Tour Report with Excerpts From a lecture given on August 2, 2000]

Typists: Srimati Surati dasi and Srimati Tulasi dasi

Several of the Russian devotees had been working day and night to turn the old hall into a temple. A few of the didis made a splendid altar for Tulasi devi, of saffron satin-like material, and the same material covered the beautiful vyasasana and its round bolsters. Devotees placed pictures of Krsna and His associates on the walls, and also made an grand and opulent altar where the Moscow Deities, Sri Si Radha Vinoda Bihariji and Caitanya Mahaprabhu, now resided, along with about 15 other Thakurjis, sets of Deities, brought by devotees visiting from around the world. Srimati Asta-sakhi didi, who had been Bhaktivedanta Manor's pujari since 1970, now became the pujari of Them all.

All of Srila Maharaja's classes were being translated through the very enthusiastic voice of Sriman Ananta Krsna dasa brahmachari. Srila Maharaja would speak several sentences, then Ananta Krsna prabhu would translate, and this way they went back and forth. In the meantime, Sadanugraha prabhu was taping the classes and, as soon they were over, he would go to his high speed multiple copying machine in the prasadam hall and begin making many, many copies of the tapes for immediate distribution. Because the devotees attending were from all over the CIS and beyond, the nectarean lectures would soon be all over the country.

Concerned that devotees should try not to make a lot of money 'for Krsna', or do other external devotional services and still remain in worldly problems, helpless in helping the world to be free from its' poisonous and polluted problems, Srila Maharaja gave the solution. He began his evening lecture of August 2 by saying: "Water is polluted, air is polluted, ether is polluted, and everything is polluted; and everything is dying by pollution. So many poisons are in water, and so many poisons are in the air, and therefore there is so very much anxiety. Intelligent persons are thinking how to save the world from this pollution. A day will come when the whole ocean will be polluted with poisons, all fish will be thus poisoned, and if anyone will eat fish or any food from the sea, he will die. In the name of saving the agriculture, people are spraying poisons everywhere to kill insects. But that poison comes in the grains and thus all are polluted. You will eat those grains, you will become mad, so many diseases will come, and you will all die

"If you are abusing anyone, criticizing anyone, or quarreling with anyone, these sounds will evaporate in the air and it go throughout the whole universe. If you are speaking any nonsense it will not 'go in vain.' It will go throughout the whole world by air. An example may be given of a big pond. If you take a stone and throw it into a pond, some waves will be created, and they will touch all ends of the pond. This universe is like that pond, and air is

everywhere in the universe. When one chants Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare, this will evaporate and create so many waves of air, and those waves will touch everywhere -- up to the ends of the world -- moving here and there and purifying the entire universe from all these pollutions.

"Krsna is so powerful. He can create the whole universe in a second and He can destroy it, and again he can create so many worlds. He has invested all His mercy, power, and opulence in His names, and therefore they are so powerful. They will very quickly travel throughout the whole universe, by the help of airwaves, and the pollution will be at once gone. You know that the trees, creepers, animals, and insects cannot speak. They cannot understand our language. Still, everyone -- not only humans, but trees, creepers, and insects here and there in this universe -- will be touched by this powerful name, whether they know it or not. There is no question of whether they are aware or not. They will be touched. If knowingly or unknowingly you are touching fire it will burn you. Similarly, these names are very powerful. They will inject all and they will purify all, whether they know or not.

"Here the trees are very fortunate, the grass is fortunate, and the persons are fortunate -- whether they are coming to our classes or not. The trees, creepers, grass and all others are somehow attending our classes by hearing the sound. Moslems don't say Hari, Krsna, or Rama, but the sound will somehow go and touch them, even if they are in Arabia or Iran. Even hogs, pigs, bears, and other creatures who are in jungles and forests, attacking persons and eating them, will be also be liberated.

"Kirtana is so powerful that if you are meditating on anything, and we are doing kirtana, you cannot continue to meditate. If you are doing kirtana and someone else is not doing kirtana, he is bound to do kirtana by mind. If you cannot meditate, you should chant Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare. This will engage all your senses. You will forget where you are and what you are doing. If you chant louder and louder, all your senses will be controlled and there will be nothing to criticize, and nothing to remember about your bad activities or anything else. Otherwise, without this, while meditating, all kinds of bogus things will come in your head. You cannot check it by yourself, but by kirtana it will be checked very easily

"In this world someone may think that devotees are very selfish. And I also think that you are engaged in selfishness. Those who are actually high class of devotees are not selfish. You can think, "I should have some money to travel here and there." This is selfishness. "I should also have some money in my pocket to do this for me, or for this purpose." This is all selfishness. However, when you will chant Hare Krsna for your self and others, there is no self-gain. Gradually your heart will be cleared, ceto-darpana-marjana, and then you will realize that your real self interest -- the soul of your soul -- is Krsna. Therefore, if you are serving Krsna, the whole world, and you, are benefited.

"Don't believe in money and wealth. Don't believe in them. To think that they will help, that we will be benefited and happy by money and wealth, is quite wrong. By chanting the name and serving gurudeva, Radha-Krsna Conjugal, Mahaprabhu, and Nityananda Prabhu, you

will be so happy that you cannot imagine, and the world will be benefited by this. So try to do nagara-sankirtana without self-gain. If there is any self-gain, let Krsna be the Self here, and we can do anything for His service. If you have so much money, or even some money, in your pockets, so many problems will come. Sri Sanatana Gosvami left his one associate, Isana. He told him, "You should take that coin and return home. It is like poison.

"You should try to do nagara-sankirtana and distribute books also, but always chant and remember, hear classes, and be in high-class devotee association. And first of all you should not be selfish. Be guru-centered or Krsna centered. They will manage everything."

On August 3 an authentic Vedic fire sacrifice was held for all the 150 new hari-nama and diksa initiates. It was presided over by Sri Sri Radha-Vinodaharjiiu and conducted by Sripad Madhava Maharaja and Sripad Aranya Maharaja, according to the system prescribed by Sri Gopal Bhatta Gosvami in his Sat Kriya Sar Dipika. Then, on August 4, the last day of his visit, the 400 devotees took Srila Maharaja to downtown Moskow's famous Red Square, to the Kremlin, where Sridam-sakha prabhu took group photos. On this occasion everyone remembered Srila Prabhupada Bhaktivedanta Svami Maharaja in his own historic photo at the Kremlin. Srila Maharaja commented several times that he and the devotees were now together only by the mercy of Prabhupada.

That evening Srila Maharaja was scheduled to speak at a large auditorium nearby. After sitting on the auditorium stage's vyasasana, he was garlanded by the president of Moskow's Iskcon temple. Many senior Iskcon devotees were also present. Due to propaganda several had been doubtful and even inimical up to that point, and had therefore not come to see Srila Maharaja at the campsite. However, now awestruck after hearing his lecture about his relationship with Prabhupada and the real mission of Caitanya Mahaprabhu, one of the most senior of them commented in amazement, "A new atmosphere and era is being ushered in!" The Iskcon president commented, "We have so many mistakes that I see a new Iskcon manifesting."

Sri Caitanya Caritamrta describes Caitanya Mahaprabhu's converting others to bhakti, simply by His embraces, and Srila Maharajas activities in Russia were reminiscent of that. At the end of practically every one of his classes, after he had stepped off his vyasasana, he would be, as usual, surrounded by heart-melted devotees chanting Hare Krsna until he finally passed through the big hall, walked down the staircase, and was somewhat out the door and on the way down the tree-lined pathway to his own room. That was usual in every country. But here there was one addition. Usually, in other countries, his hand would be resting on the shoulder of Sripada Madhava Maharaja, Sripada Vrajanatha prabhu or any senior devotee. But here, daily, as he elegantly walked through the crowd of devotees, his arms were casually somewhat stretched out, and, one after another, he would caress and embrace the heads and shoulders of the male devotees. And they would rush to him, embracing him and/or putting their heads on his chest or in his arms. And, that night in the auditorium, as he proceeded up the aisle, everyone rushed to the aisles and he was again embracing practically one and all. As for the ladies -- he was carrying a long stemmed rose -- and he tapped several of them on the head with that rose. The whole scene was marvelous.