

Trindandisvami Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Narayana Maharaja

## **AN ART ANNOUNCEMENT**

Gopinatha Bhavan, Vrndavana: October 11, 2003

[Just prior to his Oct 11th Kartika class, Parama-pujyapada Srila Narayana Maharaja ordered the newly formed art department to create over thirty drawings and several paintings of Sri Krsna's Govardhana-lila, for the very large, newly-constructed Giridhari Gaudiya Matha at Govardhana (where he and all the parikrama devotees would be residing during their 10 day Govardhana festival from October 18th to October 27<sup>th</sup>). In addition, these paintings would also be used to illustrate his books. He also requested that they make expert versions of illustrations of the Ten Avatars, and those paintings would later be turned into painted bas reliefs for the same Govardhana Matha.

Later, in an attempt to get more qualified artists to assist with these projects, at the end of his Oct 11th class, he held up and showed the over 1000 parikrama devotees the newly completed painting of Lord Krsna trying to break Srimati Radharani's maan, painted under his direction for the English edition of his Hindi translation and commentary of Sri Gita-govinda. While holding up this painting he announced:

I am very "sad," because Sri Krsna and Srimati Radhika are weeping – and She is scratching the ground. But what to do? I am indebted to Syamarani that she took my mood and has put it on canvas.

I want many expert and qualified artists to come forward and help Syamarani – not Syamarani but me – because she has given her whole life and everything to me. I want both male and female expert devotee artists from Russia, Australia, America and all other countries to come forward and meet with her. We need so many pictures. We want to publish Sri Gita-govinda in English very soon, as well as many other books.

Our bookstall is there in the back. I also request you to take the new books. [Srila Maharaja then held up the just-published Harmonist magazine and continued:] Many new books are there, as well as this, the best magazine in the entire world. It is better than the Back to Godhead Magazine published nowadays. It is like those magazines published during the time of Parama-pujypada Srila Swami Maharaja – not as they are now. You should each take one copy for yourselves, and ten copies for your friends.

There are so many wealthy persons, and I request them to come forward to help with our projects and in publishing books. I know they don't want name and fame, so they may come to me alone. They may come secretly – no harm.