



Dear Devotees,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Sri Sri Radha Neela Madhava are very merciful. They have blessed our community many times with their opulent presence. The importance of Deity worship especially for Grihastas is essential. Srila Prabhupada writes:

“The Deity worship in the temple should be performed especially by the householders. The brahmachārīs can go with the sannyāsīs to preach, and the vānaprasthas should prepare themselves for the next status of renounced life, sannyāsa. Gr̥hastha devotees, however, are generally engaged in material activities, and therefore if they do not take to Deity worship, their falling down is positively assured.” (Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 7.5.23-24)

By Deity worship one is obliged to be regulated, clean and focused on pleasing Radha and Krishna.

Another aspect of the Grihastha dharma is charity. Srila Prabhupada explains:

“Charity is meant for the householders. The householders should earn a livelihood by an honorable means and spend fifty percent of their income to propagate Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. Thus a householder should give in charity to institutional societies that are engaged in that way. Charity should be given to the right receiver. There are different kinds of charity, as will be explained later on – charity in the modes of goodness, passion and ignorance. Charity in the mode of goodness is recommended by the scriptures, but charity in the modes of passion and ignorance is not recommended, because it is simply a waste of money. Charity should be given only to propagate Kṛṣṇa consciousness all over the world. That is charity in the mode of goodness.” (Bg 16.1-3)

We are fast approaching the end of 2017. This has been an exciting year for Krishna consciousness in Seattle. We were able to successfully organize many wonderful festivals in the temple and outside with many thousands of people attending. We had our first major Rathayatra parade in Bellevue which was a great success. Our farm project is developing nicely. The Synergy School is having its best year of attendance. The Deity worship has become much more opulent with many new and exciting outfits and jewelry. The Deputy Governor of Washington State attended our Diwali program along with a State Senator, and a member of the King County Council and the Director of the Seattle Center. Many new people are visiting the temple and becoming regular guests. Our Hindi School is attracting attention. The Telugu classes are progressing nicely. Dance, musical instrumentation and singing courses have

increased.

There is a vibrant atmosphere in the temple that is catching the attention of many people. This is due to the sincere efforts of all our volunteers who manage and work hard to make the temple attractive and welcoming to the thousands of attendees every week. Our sincere thanks to all our amazing volunteers who are so sincerely offering their time and energy to make the temple such a desirable place to visit.

My heartfelt desire is to see the mortgage of the temple paid in full this year. I want to encourage all the devotees and friends of the temple to make a generous sacrifice before the end of the year to help pay the mortgage in full. There remains \$ 125,000 to pay off the mortgage.

It is a great pleasure and satisfaction to see Radha and Krishna worshipped gloriously every day. I want to thank all the pujaris and all the wonderful ladies who make the garlands every week.

2018 will be the tenth year that we are blessed with our temple building. We should all make a special effort to offer on January 1st, 2018 a debt free temple to Sri Sri Radha Neela Madhava. This will be a great victory for our community and a blessing for all visitors of the temple. Let us do it together. Everyone can give whatever they can afford to finish the mortgage.

We are on the cusp of opening our new temple in Bellevue. Finishing the mortgage on the Sammamish temple is a necessary step toward the commencement of the second temple. I pray we can accomplish this noble goal in 2017.

Your humble servant
Harivilas Das

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