

LIFE COMES FROM LIFE

Sripad Bhaktisvarupa Damodara Maharaja: Srila Prabhupada's Scientific Ambassador to the World

{ Excerpts from *Bhagavat Sevarpanam*, <http://bhaktiswarupadamodara.com> }

"First of all, you have to establish that life is not from matter. Matter is from life...", Srila Prabhupada

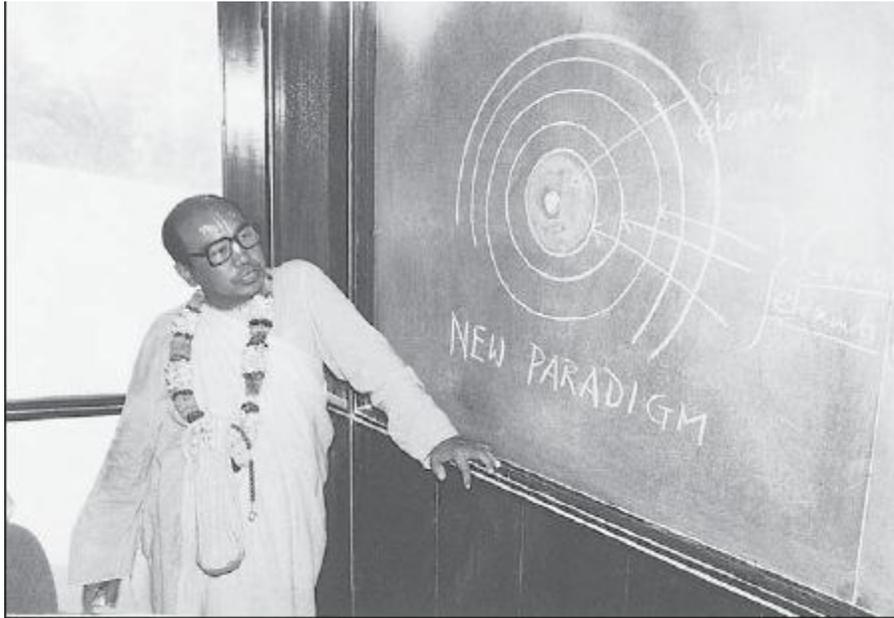


Modern science proclaims that all aspects of life can be reduced to molecules and that through the manipulation of these molecules mankind will ultimately create life. Srila Prabhupada was extremely concerned that the students of the world's colleges and universities were being misdirected by this materialistic conception. He felt that in the name of scientific and technological advancement, which is primarily motivated by mundane sense gratification and profiteering, society was drifting farther and farther away from its actual source of peace and happiness. He wanted to convey to the world's students and intellectuals that the scientifically based "Life Comes From Life" Paradigm or Bhagavata Paradigm is the better model for attaining peace and happiness in this world. The Bhagavata Paradigm is based on the understanding that life is the ultimate non-material particle and is distinct from molecules or matter and that the Supreme Lord is the source of both life and matter. It is described in *Bhagavad-gita*, verse 7.6:

*etad-yonīni bhūtāni
sarvāṇīty upadhāraya
ahaṁ kṛtsnasya jagataḥ
prabhavaḥ pralayas tathā*

"All created beings have their source in these two natures. Of all that is material and all that is spiritual in this world, know for certain that I am both the origin and the dissolution."

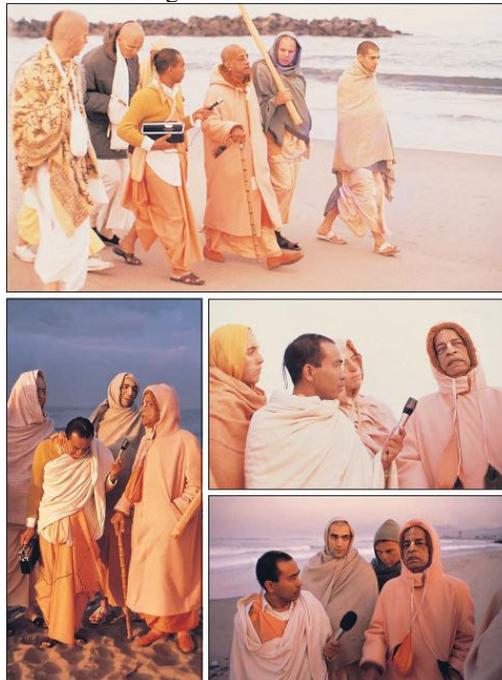
Srila Prabhupada, through conversations and correspondences, gave many detailed instructions to Maharaja on this spiritual paradigm. He also instructed Maharaja how to present it scientifically. Srila Prabhupada once said, "The evolution theory is there in the *Padma Purana*. It is not Darwin's theory. Darwin stole it from the *Padma Purana*, and he presented it in a distorted way with his own imagination. The soul is wandering within the different species. This is Vedic knowledge." For over thirty years, Maharaja has been presenting this Vedic paradigm of evolution of consciousness versus evolution of species, as per Srila Prabhupada's instructions.



Once, while Maharaja was doing his Ph.D. work at the University of California, Irvine, he attended a lecture on the origin of life by the world-renowned reductionist, Professor Stanley Miller. During the time allotted for questions Maharaja challenged Professor Miller on the basis of Srila Prabhupada's 'Life Comes From Life' paradigm, "Suppose, if I were to give you all of the ready-made bio-molecules, DNA, proteins, lipids, sugars, etc., will you be able to produce life

within a test-tube by combining these molecules?” Professor Miller replied, “That I don’t know.” When Maharaja narrated this incident to Srila Prabhupada during a morning walk on Venice Beach, California, Srila Prabhupada became very pleased. He used to narrate this story frequently to both his guests and disciples emphasizing the imperfect nature of modern science’s speculative theories - the very theories that are misdirecting society’s quest for lasting peace and happiness. Some of the conversations between Srila Prabhupada and Maharaja on 'Life Comes From Life' took place on a series of morning walks at Venice Beach, California and are now distributed widely by the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust as a book, also entitled, *Life Comes From Life*.

Morning walks on Venice beach



“The scientific method includes hypothesis, experimentation, observation and then demonstration. Then it is perfect. But the scientists cannot actually demonstrate in their laboratories that life comes from matter.”

“Just as the living body of a man produces chemicals, the Supreme Life (the Supreme Lord) is producing all of the chemicals found in the atmosphere, the water, in humans, in animals and in the earth. That is called mystic power. Unless the mystic power of the Supreme Lord is accepted, there will be no solution to problem of the origin of life.”

- Srila Prabhupada –

"How do you know that the incessant progress of science will not compel scientists .. to consider that life has existed during eternity, and not matter? ...How do you know that in 10,000 years one will not consider it more likely that matter has emerged from life?"

- Louis Pasteur -

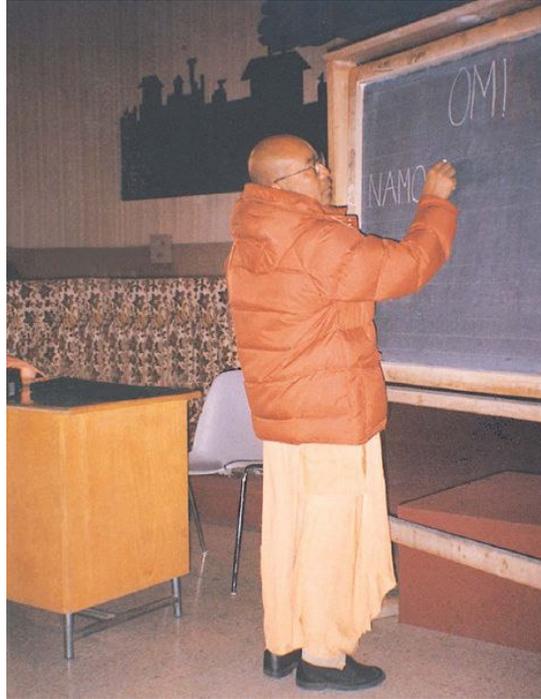
Pasteur demonstrated that spontaneous generation of life (life comes from matter) is not scientifically correct, and he won the prize from the French Academy in 1866 for proving this thesis.

Photo: Srila Prabhupada pointing at his fingernail and explaining how it is made of matter and that it is manifesting because life is present in the body - matter comes from life



“... we have to go to colleges and universities and present the concept that matter comes from life, not life comes from matter.”

- Srila Prabhupada –

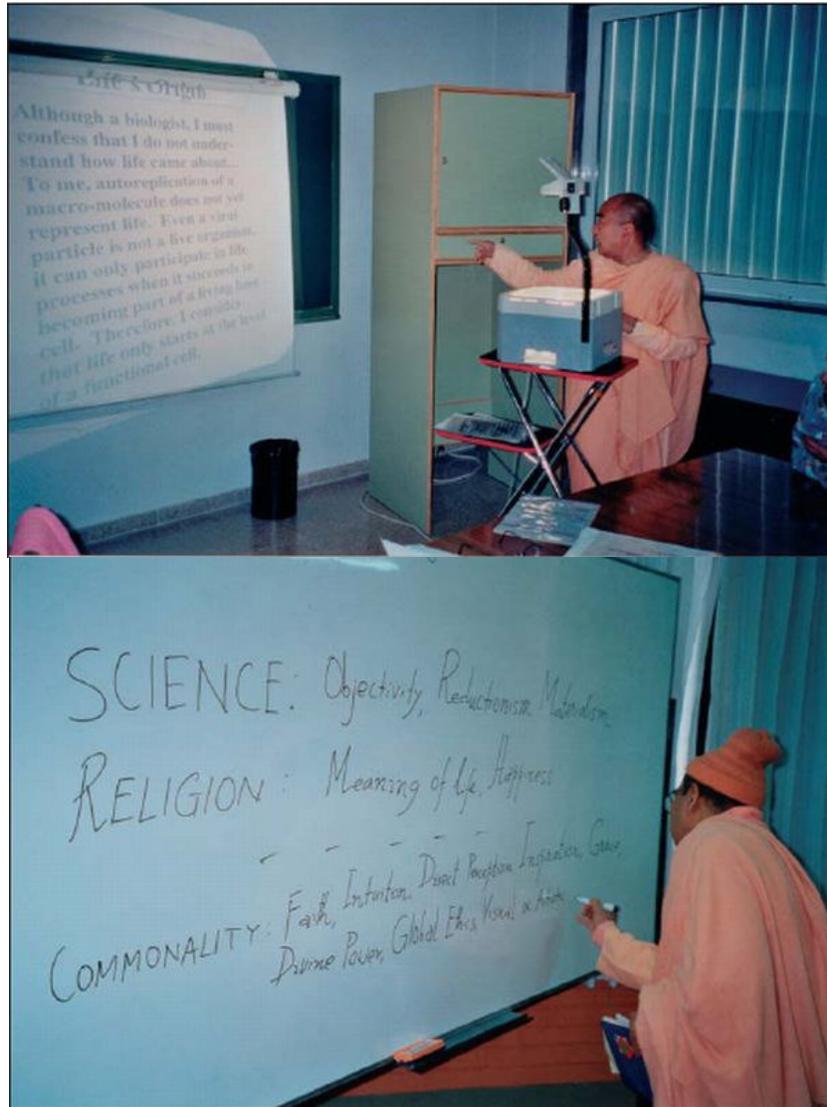


Srila Prabhupada was eager to have Maharaja scientifically present the ‘Life Comes From Life’ paradigm at colleges and universities around the world. Along with the instructions given to Maharaja on how to do this, Srila Prabhupada also gave an instruction to the manager of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT), “I have asked him (Maharaja) to tour vigorously throughout the world, lecturing with his other colleagues at all the major institutions and universities. He has drawn up a budget , a copy of which is enclosed, and I immediately sanction this amount. Whatever expenditure he requires, supply him immediately.” Srila Prabhupada also wanted to send a cultural troupe along with Maharaja to assist him in presenting Bhagavata Culture.

For over three decades, Maharaja has been giving lectures on the spiritually based Bhagavata Paradigm. He has spoken on such subjects as Bioethics, Theobiology, Life Comes From Life and the Synthesis of Science and Religion at many of the world’s most prestigious colleges and universities such as, Stanford University, USA; National University of Singapore, Singapore; Tehran University, Iran; University of Durban, South Africa; Federal University of Campina Grande, Brazil; Medical College, Suva, Fiji; Udayana University, Bali, Indonesia; University of Malaya, Malaysia; Emory University, Atlanta, USA; Institute for Oriental Studies, Peru; National Institute of Medicine, Senigaglia, Italy; the IIT at Bombay, Kanpur, Madras, Gauhati, Delhi; Andhra University, Andhra Pradesh; University of San Francisco, USA; University of Malaga, Spain and Vishva

Bharati University, West Bengal. Recently, Maharaja also gave a lecture at the University of Calcutta, which he had attended as a student in the early 1960s.

“I have asked him (Bhaktisvarupa Damodara Maharaja) to tour vigorously throughout the world, lecturing with his other colleagues...”
- Srila Prabhupada



“ With the explosive expansion of science and technology there is a great need to include spiritual knowledge and values for a balanced and holistic growth in human life.”- Sripada Bhaktisvarupa Damodara Maharaja –

“... there is no conflict between science and religion to the Vedantist. A brilliant scientist can also be a

devout religious person like Pasteur or Planck.” – Sripada Bhaktisvarupa Damodara Maharaja



Top to bottom: The Straits Times, Singapore about Maharaja’s lecture at the University of Singapore; The New Straits Times, Malaysia of Maharaja’s lecture on ‘Science, spirituality and the Future of Humanity’, given at the Center for Civilizational Dialogue, University of Malaya, Malaysia; Tehran Times of Maharaja’s lecture on ‘A Critical Analysis of the Chemical Origin of Life and it’s Moral and Ethical Implications’, delivered at Tehran University, Iran; Notice of a seminar given by Maharaja at Emory University, USA

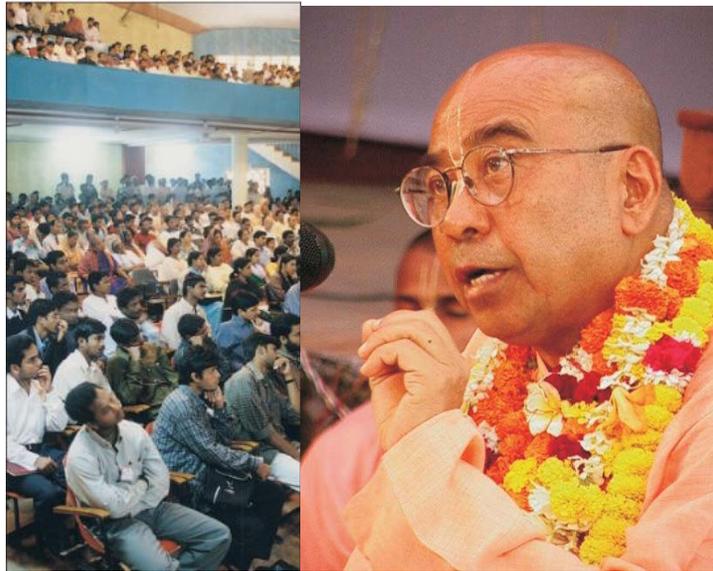
Bhaktisvarupa Damodara Maharaja published an article in the New University newspaper of the University of California, inviting students and professors to come and meet Srila Prabhupada in Los Angeles.

“Dr. Singh (Maharaja) brought me to the temple where I spent an interesting afternoon and evening having a discussion (with Srila Prabhupada).”

-Professor Gregory Benford, Department of Physics, University of California,
Irvine-

“We have to bring in the study of spirituality and religion within science and vice versa.”

- Sripada Bhaktisvarupa Damodara Maharaja –



BHAKTIVEDANTA INSTITUTE

“It will be a great service if you can organize such an institute.”

- Srila Prabhupada –



“I will give you all of the instructions required to run the Institute. You simply follow them.”
- Srila Prabhupada -

After completing his Ph.D., in July 1974, Maharaja went to Vrindavan, India to see Srila Prabhupada. In Vrindavan, Srila Prabhupada and Maharaja would take a walk every morning. During those walks Srila Prabhupada would speak to Maharaja about presenting the science and philosophy of Krishna consciousness to the world’s intellectuals. One day after a morning walk, Srila Prabhupada called Maharaja to his room and expressed his desire to start an academic wing of ISKCON. He asked Maharaja to become the director of that academic wing, to which Maharaja humbly replied, “Srila Prabhupada, I have neither the experience nor the knowledge of how to run such an institute. I am completely unqualified.” However, Srila Prabhupada responded by saying, “I will give you all of the instructions required to run the Institute. You simply follow them.” Over the following months Srila Prabhupada and Maharaja worked on the details of forming the Institute. Maharaja suggested the name, “Bhaktivedanta Institute” and Srila Prabhupada agreed to it. Maharaja showed Srila Prabhupada the logo of the Bhaktivedanta Institute that he had designed. Srila Prabhupada liked it very much and instructed Maharaja to add the words *athato brahma jijnasa*, the first verse of the *Vedanta Sutra*, to the top of the logo. In 1975, Srila Prabhupada visited Atlanta on Maharaja’s request and gave extensive instructions to Maharaja and his colleagues about the purpose and functions of the Bhaktivedanta Institute. It was at that time that the Bhaktivedanta Institute was officially registered. In 1976, Srila Prabhupada also appointed Maharaja as ‘ISKCON Minister for Higher Education’.

Srila Prabhupada proceeded to give Maharaja many specific instructions through conversations and letters on how to organize and operate the Institute. Some of

these instructions were of a private nature and some of them were not. He sometimes used strong words like ‘fools’ and ‘rascals’ to emphasize the urgent need to save humanity from the materialistic concepts of life propounded by most contemporary scientists. However, he repeatedly stressed that all of the activities of the Institute should be carried out with great skill and politeness and that those engaged in this work should be exemplary in their dealings with scholars. A Vaishnava is very compassionate, as are his activities. Therefore the task set forth by Srila Prabhupada of introducing the Bhagavata Paradigm to the scientists was to be done with the utmost respect for their free will. In this regard, Srila Prabhupada frequently emphasized the need for the world’s scientists, intellectuals and leaders to bring a God centered approach to their research and activities. He felt that if they would do this it would create an immense benefit for the entire society. This understanding given by Srila Prabhupada is emphasized in *Bhagavad-gita*, verse 3.21:

*yad yad ācarati śreṣṭhas
tat tad evetaro janah
sa yat pramāṇam kurut
e lokas tad anuvartate*

“Whatever action a great man performs, common men follow. And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues.”

Maharaja was able to lay the foundation of the Bhaktivedanta Institute under Srila Prabhupada’s guidance. He organized a conference in Vrindavan, India, produced literature and delivered lectures at various institutions. During the initial period of the Institute, Maharaja was working as a research scientist at Emory University and therefore most of the Institute’s major activities were done after Srila Prabhupada’s departure from this world.

After Srila Prabhupada’s departure, Maharaja underwent a long struggle to establish the Bhaktivedanta Institute’s activities. This was primarily due to a lack of financial support. Srila Prabhupada had instructed Maharaja to establish a Bhaktivedanta Institute center in America. For this purpose, in 1978 Maharaja temporarily rented a house in Atlanta. A little while after this, he shifted the Institute to Philadelphia. There he and the other members



produced the bulletin for the Bhaktivedanta Institute. Soon after that the funds required to run the Institute were exhausted and so Maharaja moved to Oklahoma City where he oversaw the running of a motel with the help of Sri Ramanbhai Patel in order to generate funds for the Institute. With the meager income from the motel he began to work on some publications.

Later, Atreya Rishi Prabhu, who knew Maharaja from prior interactions that the two of them had in the company of Srila Prabhupada, requested Maharaja to move the Bhaktivedanta Institute to San Francisco. Atreya Rishi Prabhu owned a few houses there and out of friendship offered Maharaja the use of one of them.



Maharaja inaugurating the Bhaktivedanta Institute branch in Tirupati, India

In the early 1980's Maharaja began to give presentations on Bhagavata Culture at various universities in South India. The Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanam (TTD), management of the famous Balaji Temple, after being impressed by Srila Prabhupada's mission, donated a piece of land for the Bhaktivedanta Institute at

the base of the Tirumala hill. Thereafter, Maharaja opened a Bhaktivedanta Institute branch in Tirupati, which is now the ISKCON Tirupati temple. Thus in India, the Bhaktivedanta Institute was started in Tirupati with the aim of presenting the scientific, theological and philosophical teachings of the *Bhagavada-gita* and *Srimad Bhagavatam* for the welfare of humanity, by the combined effort of TTD and ISKCON. Simultaneously, he began organizing a conference on the Synthesis of Science and Religion that was to be held in commemoration of Sri Chaitanya's 500th birth anniversary.

In spite of the financial obstacles that Maharaja faced in establishing the Bhaktivedanta Institute, it is now a wellrecognized research and educational institution. Maharaja's acceptance of his spiritual master's instructions as his life and soul has caused Srila Prabhupada's vision of introducing the Bhagavata Paradigm to the world's scientists, intellectuals and leaders to become a reality.

In the name of the Bhaktivedanta Institute, Maharaja has organized three major conferences and a large number of seminars. He has published two important books on the synthesis of science and religion and numerous other literatures, which have all received wide acceptance from the academic community. As director of the Bhaktivedanta Institute he has interacted with thousands of scholars from around the globe, including many Nobel Laureates and leading scientists.

In Northeastern India, Maharaja has started a network of schools in order to promote the goals of the Institute. Over 4000 students attend these schools and receive a scientific education centered on the spiritual values of the Bhagavata tradition.

Maharaja has often expressed his gratitude towards those who have helped him in the development of the Bhaktivedanta Institute. Because of their dedicated help, the Institute has managed to become what it is today. He thanks all of those who have directly or indirectly helped to fulfill Srila Prabhupada's earnest desire of a successful Bhaktivedanta Institute.

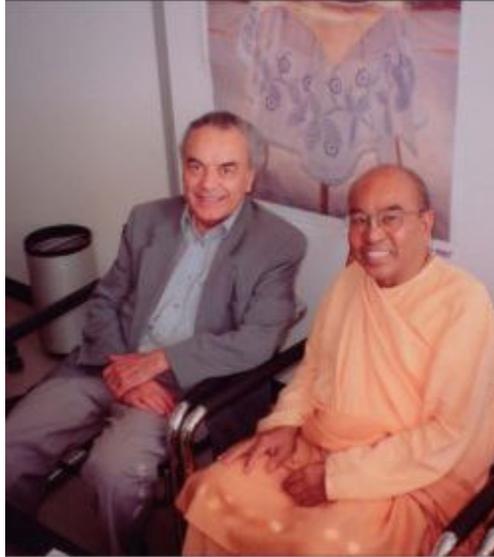
"I think that life could be beyond the assembly of biomolecules."

- Professor Werner Arber, Nobel Laureate –

"I maintain that the human mystery is incredibly demeaned by reductionism, with its claim in promissory materialism to account eventually for all of the spiritual world in terms of patterns of neural activity. This belief must be classed as a superstition ...we are spiritual

beings with souls in a spiritual world, as well as material beings with bodies and brains existing in a material world."

- Sir John Eccles, Nobel Laureate -



Maharaja with Professor Werner Arber from the University of Basel, Switzerland, Nobel Laureate in Physiology and Medicine. He is an authority on viruses. Maharaja visited him a few times in his laboratory in Switzerland to discuss about life and its Origin. Their dialogue was published in the Journal of the Bhaktivedanta Institute, *Savijnanam*

"Science and technology alone cannot solve the problems of the new millennium. We need additional guidelines for our actions, for the selection of our research projects and research goals. These guidelines have to do with ethics, with philosophy, and with faith. "

- Professor Richard R. Ernst, Nobel Laureate -



Maharaja with Professor Richard R. Ernst, Noble Laureate in Chemistry. Professor Ernst contributed an article on, 'Science in the Third Millennium: Expectations between Hope and Fear' for the Bhaktivedanta Institute's publication, *Thoughts on Synthesis of Science and Religion*.

"I maintain that the human mystery is incredibly demeaned by reductionism, with its claim in promissory materialism to account eventually for all of the spiritual world in terms of patterns of neural activity. This belief must be classed as a superstition ...we are spiritual beings with souls in a spiritual world, as well as material beings with bodies and brains existing in a material world."

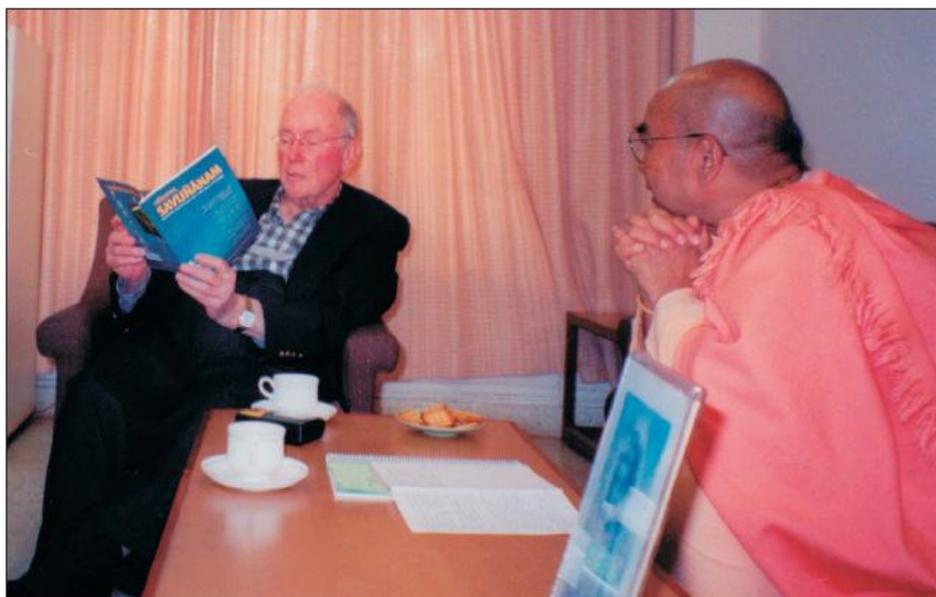
- Sir John Eccles, Nobel Laureate -



Maharaja with Professor John Eccles, Nobel Laureate in Physiology and Medicine. He delivered the key-note address in the 'First International Conference on the Study of Consciousness within Science' organized by the Bhaktivedanta Institute at the University of San Francisco, 1990

"In India, there is much more union between the two (science and spirituality) than there is in the West. I think that the Western scientists are coming back to that point of view - what the universe is all about. A few scientists are interested and their number is increasing."

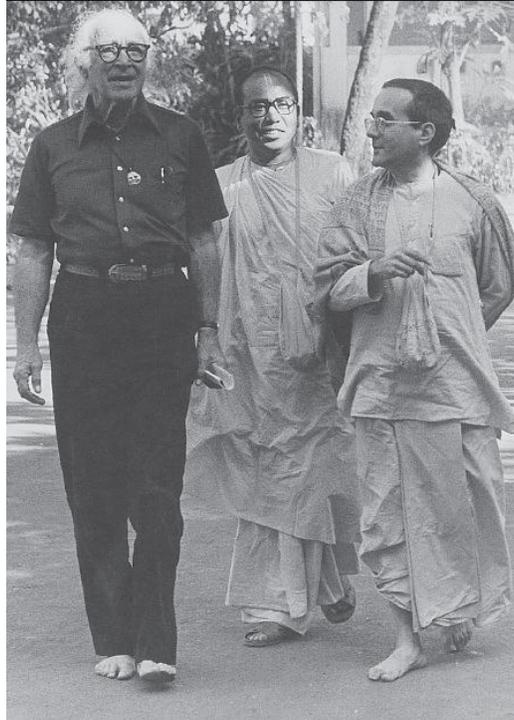
- Professor Charles Townes, Nobel Laureate -



Maharaja with Professor Charles H. Townes, Nobel Laureate in Physics, reading the Journal of the Bhaktivedanta Institute. Professor Townes delivered the key-note address of the 'Second World Congress for the Synthesis of Science and Religion' held in Calcutta, India, 1997

"The Bhaktivedanta Institute is greatly to be congratulated for having produced so crucial and productive a discussion. It should be given every encouragement and support in going ahead with an enterprise so well begun."

- Professor George Wald, Nobel Laureate -



Maharaja and Madhava Das with Professor George Wald, Nobel Laureate in Physiology and Medicine, at the Bhaktivedanta Institute campus, Bombay in 1981. Professor Wald delivered the key-note address at the 'First World Congress for the Synthesis of Science and Religion' held in Bombay in 1986 and also participated in the 'First International Conference on the Study of Consciousness within Science' in San Francisco, 1990

"Children should be given basic spiritual knowledge about the value of human life right from the beginning of their schooling. In this way they will become valuable citizens of the world."

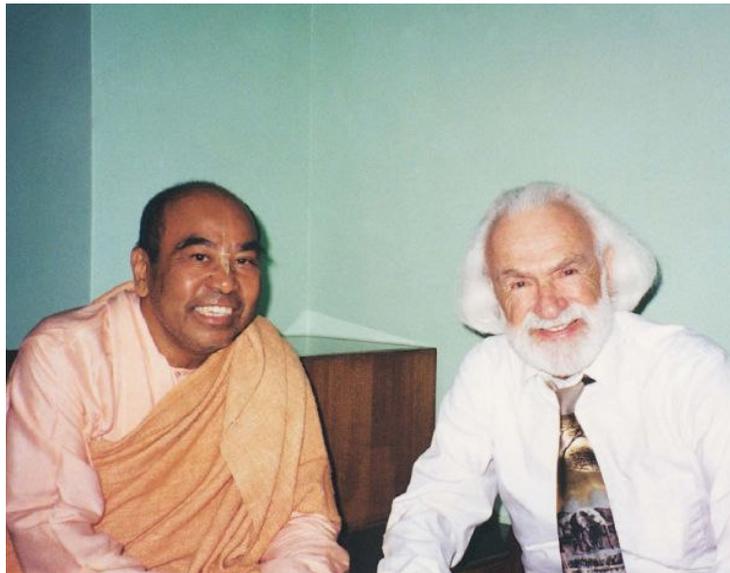
-Sripada Bhaktisvarupa Damodara Maharaja-



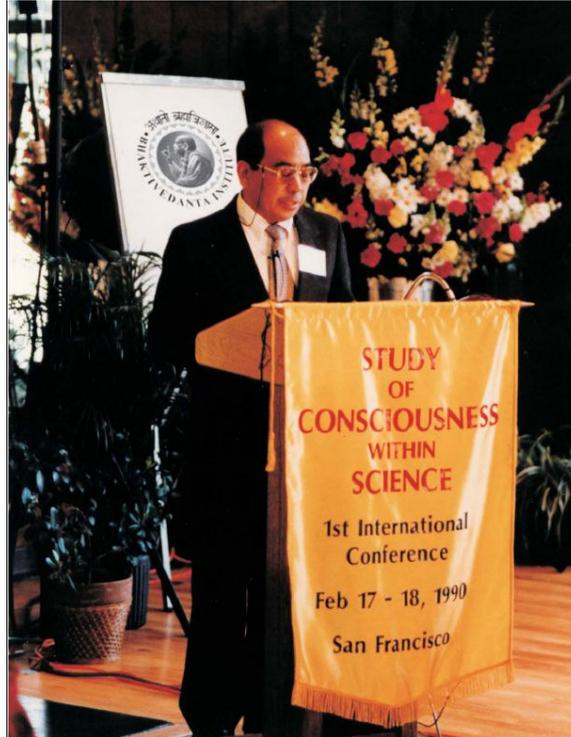


“Turn the whole building into the Bhaktivedanta Institute!”
- Srila Prabhupada –

“I think that in this century, science will be admitted to the spiritual aspects of mankind, and vice versa..”
-Karl H. Pribram-

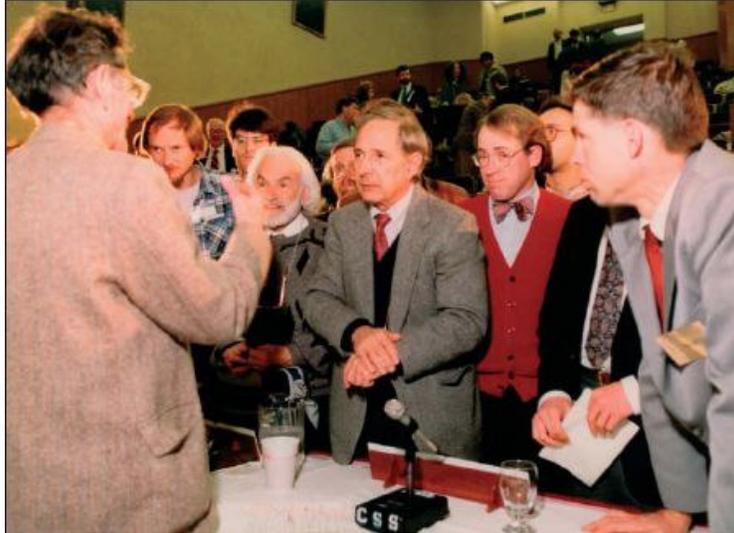


Maharaja with Professor Karl H. Pribram, Research Professor, Georgetown University and Professor Emeritus, Stanford and Radford Universities. Professor Pribram participated in the Bhaktivedanta Institute's 'Study on Consciousness within Science' Conference and has recently given an interview for the Journal of the Bhaktivedanta Institute, *Savijnanam*



“Hold such conferences in every major city of the world”
- Srila Prabhupada –

Srila Prabhupada continually emphasized to Maharaja the need for organizing conferences in major cities of the world. His idea was to provide a platform for mutual dialogue among scientists, religious leaders, and academicians. In this way both scientists and spiritual leaders would have the opportunity to learn from each other and thereby broaden their respective worldviews.



Prof. Benjamin Libet and Prof. John Searle debating at a conference organized by the Bhaktivedanta Institute

The first conference Maharaja organized was under the direct guidance of Srila Prabhupada and was held in Vrindavan, India, in October of 1977. It was entitled ‘The First International Conference on Life Comes From Life’. Srila Prabhupada was extremely concerned about every detail of the conference, from the venue, to the reception of the scholars, to the prasadam and the accommodations. In fact, he was calling Maharaja almost every hour during the conference to inquire about its progress. He was extremely pleased with Maharaja’s humble effort of organizing the conference. He later said, “...arrange for such conferences one after another.”



Since the first conference in Vrindavan, Maharaja, with his limited resources, has been humbly trying to fulfill Srila Prabhupada’s instruction of organizing conferences under the banner of the Bhaktivedanta Institute. Maharaja has held many conferences around the world. He has organized three major international conferences; First World Congress for the Synthesis of Science and Religion, Bombay (1986); First International Conference on the Study of Consciousness within Science, San Francisco (1990); Second World Congress for the Synthesis of Science and Religion, Calcutta (1997) where, collectively, thousands of scholars in different fields participated, including many Nobel Laureates and well-known spiritual leaders. The participants have all expressed their gratitude to the Bhaktivedanta Institute for the platform of dialogue created at its various conferences.

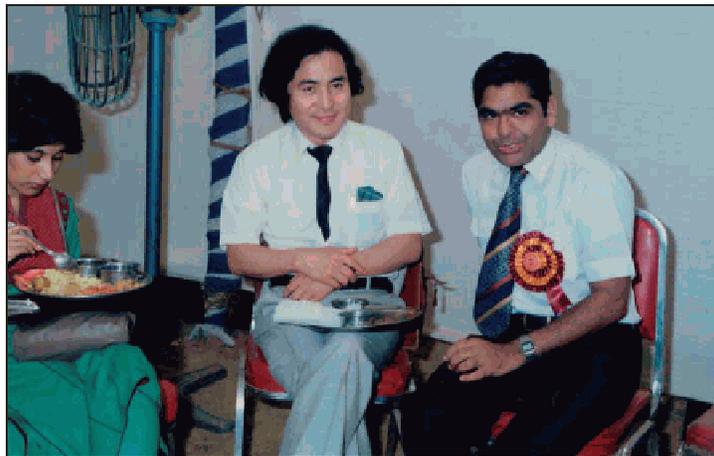
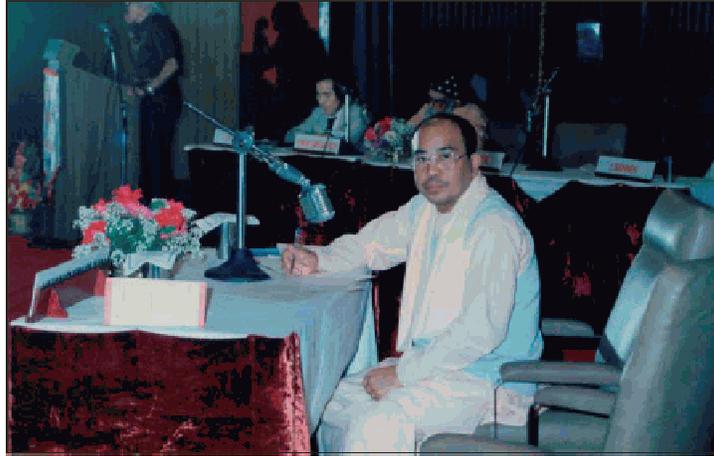
Maharaja has organized numerous smaller conferences and seminars including, a symposium on “Consciousness and the Origin of Life”, Bombay (1978); an ayurvedic conference entitled “Health and Consciousness”, Bombay (1978); a conference on “The Model and Structure of the Universe”, Bombay (1981); an international symposium on Science and Religion, Tirupati (1981); a seminar on Religion and Science, Gandhi Bhavan,

Hyderabad (1983); eight regional Bhagavata Science Conferences on the theme ‘Spiritual Knowledge: The Missing Element in Modern Education’ in Madras and Bombay (1985); a conference on “Bio-ethics”, Toulouse, France (1992); a seminar on “Science, Spirituality and the Future of Humanity”, Imphal, Manipur (2000) and a seminar on “The Role of Spirituality in the New Millennium”, Kumbha Mela, Allahabad (2001). For the past 25 years Maharaja has also been organizing an annual seminar in Imphal, Manipur. Each year, on Janmastami day, Maharaja chooses a topic pertaining to that year’s major issue and holds a seminar.



Along with organizing seminars and conferences on behalf of the Bhaktivedanta Institute, Maharaja has been an invited speaker at countless other conferences. Maharaja is an excellent devotional singer, songwriter and poet. He always chants hymns of the Vedas as an auspicious invocation at all of the conferences that he organizes. When Maharaja is invited to attend a conference, he is almost always requested to chant some hymns or prayers from the Vedas.

“The Bhaktivedanta Institute must be congratulated for bringing together
so many great scholars”
- Dr. Karan Singh -



Photographs of the ‘First World Congress for the Synthesis of Science and Religion’



Photograph of the ‘First International Conference on the Study of Consciousness within Science’, held in San Francisco, USA, 1990

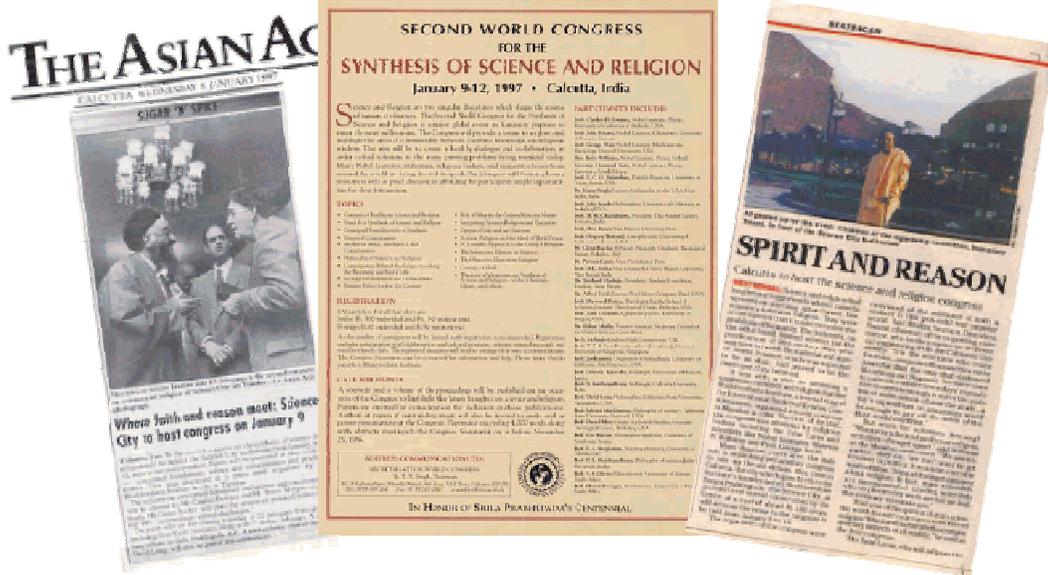
“... I suspect that happiness is not within the purview of physics.”

- G. Sudarshan -

“The Vedic literatures teach us that the living being or life is beyond molecules. Its ontological nature is non-molecular, it is spiritual. Therefore modern science

needs to incorporate a spiritual dimension by adopting a new paradigm if it is to remain a true science. This required new paradigm will emerge from a sythesis of science and religion.”

- Sripada Bhaktisvarupa Damodara Maharaja -



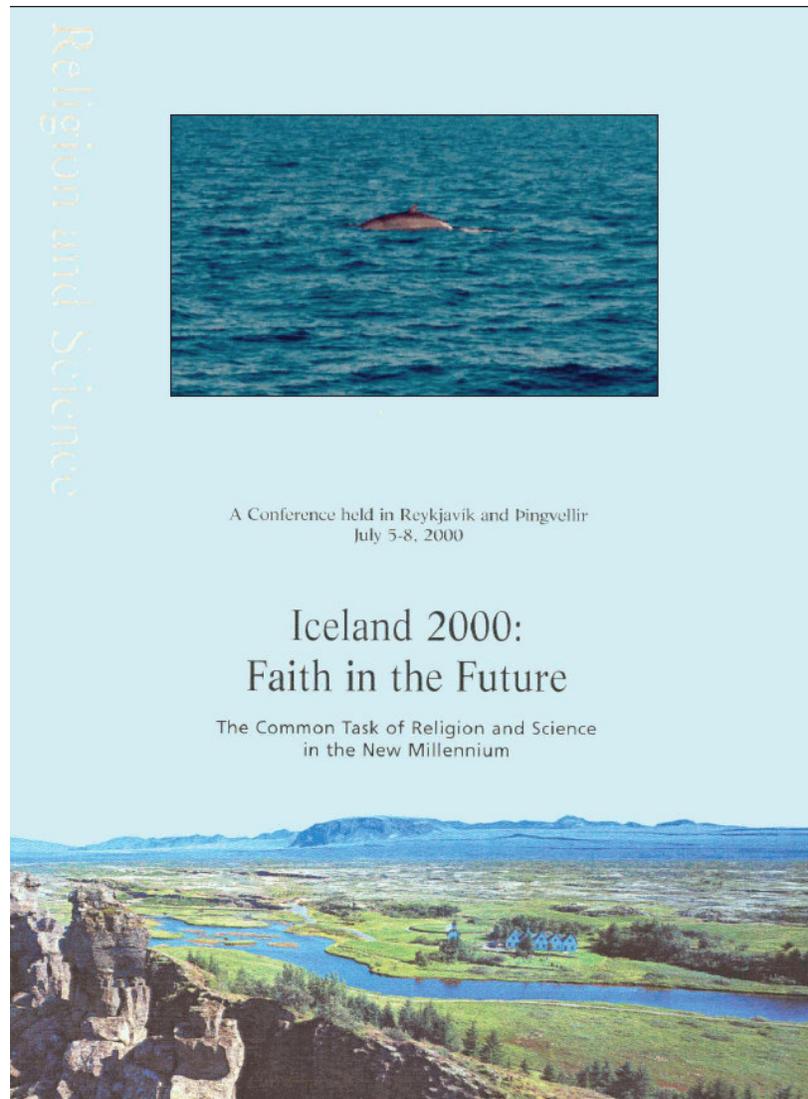
‘Second World Congress for the Synthesis of Science and Religion’; Science City Auditorium, Calcutta, venue of the Congress.

“It is clear from this Congress that the Vedic literature has the most comprehensive unifying relationship between man and nature.”

- Professor Edward MacKinnon -



Brochure from the conference in Iceland along with a photograph of a blue whale taken by Maharaja

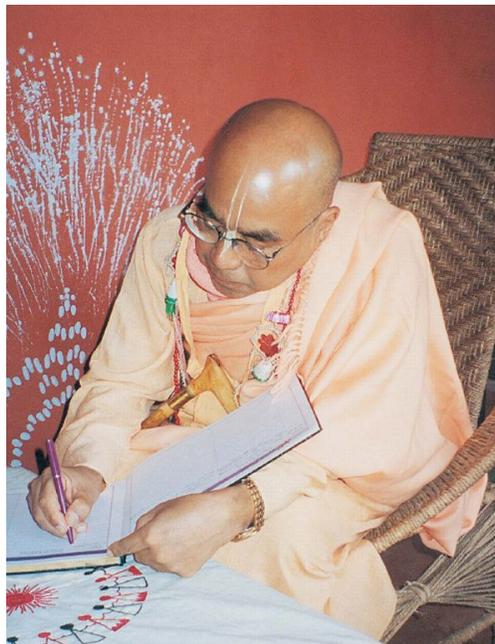


“...the result of this conference should be summarized and submitted to the United Nations. ... I further propose that, somewhere on this planet, in the same way that we have a University for Peace, we should have a University of Spirituality, a university in which all religions are represented. Perhaps the Bhaktivedanta Institute could transform itself into the first University of Spirituality.”

Dr. Robert Muller

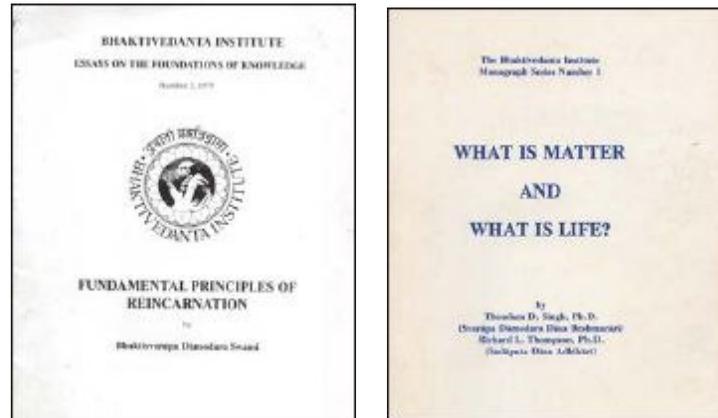


Maharaja accepting a United Nations' Flag from Dr. Robert Muller, Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations



“You are a scientist, write books, prove scientifically that God is the Supreme Person.”
- Srila Prabhupada -

Srila Prabhupada instructed Maharaja to write books and articles that scientifically present Krishna Consciousness or Bhagavata Culture. In order to fulfill this instruction, Maharaja has authored *The Fundamental Principles of Reincarnation*, *Theobiology* and *What is Matter and What is Life?* He published the Bhaktivedanta Institute's monthly bulletin for a number of years.



He co-edited two major volumes; *Synthesis of Science and Religion - Critical Essays and Dialogues* and *Thoughts on Synthesis of Science and Religion* containing important thoughts from some of the most prominent contemporary scientists and thinkers of the world including several Nobel Laureates. Maharaja was the only disciple of Srila Prabhupada to write a book during Srila Prabhupada's lifetime that Srila Prabhupada himself ordered to be printed and distributed in mass. The book is entitled, *The Scientific Basis of Krishna Consciousness* and is based on instructions that Maharaja had received from Srila Prabhupada. Maharaja offered the book to Srila Prabhupada on his Vyasa Puja day, in Los Angeles, in 1973. Srila Prabhupada was extremely impressed with the book. He would often show it to his guests, stating that the book was written by one of his scientist disciples. He ordered the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT) to publish and print over 100,000 copies of the book. This book is still being used extensively for presenting Krishna consciousness to students at colleges and universities throughout the world and over a quarter million copies have been printed to date. For this purpose it has been translated into many different languages.

Srila Prabhupada also instructed Maharaja to publish the Journal of the Bhaktivedanta Institute, *Savijnanam*. The first issue of the journal was



Maharaja offering the first issue of the Journal of the Bhaktivedanta Institute ,
Savijnanam, to Srila Prabhupada

published and offered to Srila Prabhupada on his 25th disappearance day festival in Vrindavan on November 8, 2002. The title *Savijnanam* was given by Srila Prabhupada and was inspired by the *Bhagavad-gita* Verse 7.2:

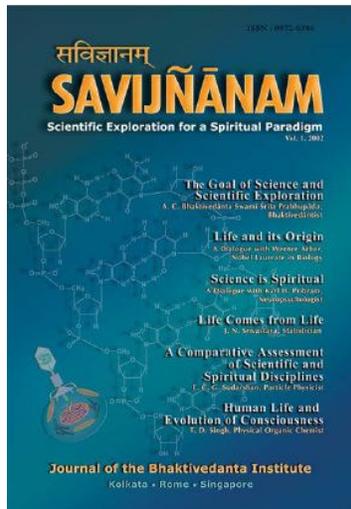
*jñānaṁ te 'haṁ sa-vijñānam
idaṁ vakṣyāmy aśeṣataḥ
yaj jñātvā neha bhūyo 'nyaj
jñātavyam avaśiṣyate*

"I shall now declare unto you in full this knowledge, both phenomenal and numinous. This being known, nothing further shall remain for you to know."

Srila Prabhupada desired that an academic journal with a modern scientific perspective of the divine Bhagavata Paradigm be published. Capturing the mood of Srila Prabhupada, the English subtitle, "Scientific Exploration for a Spiritual Paradigm" has been added.

Maharaja is currently working on a book entitled *Origins of Life* that will address the mistakes in Darwin's theory of evolution while providing scientific explanations for accepting the "Life" based Bhagavata Paradigm.

Srila Prabhupada also instructed Maharaja to write a scientific commentary on the *Vedanta Sutra*, the topmost



philosophical treatise of the Vedic literatures. In Los Angeles in 1973, Srila Prabhupada said to Maharaja, "...we can publish this scientific explanation of *Vedanta Sutra*. You have to explain scientifically that a human beings' only business is to inquire about the Absolute Truth. ... You have to prove it logically and scientifically... I will guide you for every *sutra*." Maharaja, praying for Srila Prabhupada's mercy, has very humbly started writing a scientific commentary on the *Vedanta Sutra* as per Srila Prabhupada's divine instructions and has presented his commentary on the first verse in his article in *Savijnanam*.



Maharaja presenting a copy of the book *Thoughts on Synthesis of Science and Religion*, to Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, President of India at Rasktrapati Bharam, New Delhi, India, 2003

We are encouraging qualified devotees to join in the efforts of Bhaktivedanta Institute. Please contact us for further information

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