



September 1st, 2007

Dear devotees,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to our beloved master Srila Sripada!

His Holiness Atmanivedana Maharaja, five devotees from Bali (who had been out of Manipur for the last month due to Visa problems), my husband Jivan Mukta Prabhu and myself just arrived in Manipur yesterday after a few days in Kolkata. It is still the rainy season here, and the weather is quite hot and humid.

Due to lack of funds and to the rain the work has been going on rather slowly for the temple construction in the past few months but some progress has been made:

- The compound wall is looking quite nice towering high around the property. It creates a nice barrier from the surroundings and a peaceful atmosphere in the University complex. The granite lanterns, peacocks and stones from China that will decorate the wall have arrived safely and will be installed soon.
- The brahmachari ashram's first floor rooms have been bricked up. The second floor pillars will be casted this week and then preparation for the roof will begin.
- The stone walkway to the temple is finished and grass has started growing between the stones for a nice natural touch. A platform has been added in front of the temple with a couple of steps going down to the stone walkway as per Srila Sripada's instruction. It really complements the architecture of the temple and will look great once completed.
- The whole roof of the temple has been waterproofed with a special waterproofing membrane and chemicals to protect the structure for many years to come. A large task as the roof area is approximately 20,000 sq ft.

- The window frames have been placed on all the dome windows and tinted blue glass is being installed.
- Govinda Hari Prabhu has made arrangements for a qualified electrician to come to Manipur. He is currently setting up a proper electrical system and lighting in the temple, the brahmachari ashram and on the compound wall. It will all be tied into a super quiet 150KV generator for all the times that there is not regular electricity, which is quite often in Manipur.
- Sukadeva Prabhu is working very hard supervising wood workers from Kolkata. The window frames of the ground and first floor of the temple have been polished and varnished. The beautifully carved entrance doors to the temple have been installed. A lot of wood work is still going on such as polishing and varnishing of the deity doors, kirtan hall pillars and carved panels that will clad the kirtan hall ceiling. The carving work done by our Balinese God-brothers is amazingly beautiful. Once finished, the Manimandir will surely be one of the most beautiful temples in the world!
- By the dedicated devotion of the Bali devotees Sri Garuda has fully manifested himself in Manipur and he looks extremely majestic and powerful!
- Two bells have arrived from Burma for the future bell towers

The last shipment from China containing the roof tiles and “scorpion tails” has been in the Kolkata port for a month now. The Customs agents were giving us difficulties and not clearing the shipment. However by Srila Sripada’s mercy, and the hard work of Achutya Keshava Prabhu, a Customs agent that had gone for some time just came back and allowed the shipment to be released today. Jaya Srila Sripada! The tiles and scorpion tails should reach Manipur in about 15 days and the work of installing the roof will begin.

One of the three deity Kalasams being made in South India is complete. The work on the other two has begun and will be done soon. The gold plating of the Kalasams will be done on-site in Manipur, though at this point it is doubtful that it will be financially possible to gold-plate all three.

One of the three “Bhaktivedanta Institute on Wheels” buses has arrived in Manipur. The devotees and Their Lordships Sri Sri Jagannath Baladeva and Subadra Maharani are going out everyday to preach in the town of Imphal and create awareness for the temple opening. They will be in Manipur until the temple inauguration.

Sri Janmastami is in a few days and preparations are underway for the celebration. There will be about 100 security/army men to protect the compound and many people are expected to come for the occasion, in spite of last years terrorist attack, in a show of solidarity and faith in Sri Sri Radha Krishnachandra.

There are only 80 days left before the University of Bhagavata Culture’s grand opening and still a lot of works are to be done. We pray for the blessings of all the vaishnavas so that the work may go on smoothly.

It was Srila Prabhupada’s desire and direct instruction to build a temple in Manipur. Srila Sripada worked hard to make Srila Prabhupada’s vision a reality. Srila Sripada had told one of our God-brothers a few weeks before ending his physical pastimes in this world, “One person can finish everything, but it is nice to leave some work for others.” There is no doubt that Srila Sripada could have finished this project a long time ago, but out of causeless mercy he has left us with the

opportunity to help and do some seva for our own purification. All of the devotees working here on the project feel very grateful to have been given the chance to assist Srila Sripada with fulfilling his instruction from Srila Prabhupada for Manipur.

Due to the geographical and political situation in Manipur, building this project is much more difficult and costs three times more than other places in India. Almost all of the materials are imported from neighboring States or mainland India and are limited in availability. It is also difficult to find reliable workers in Manipur, therefore Bengali workers have been brought to work on the construction. If anyone would like to take the opportunity to help with the project by giving some financial support, please contact me at the email below and I will be happy to assist you.

November 21st is the official opening day of the University of Bhagavata Culture. The program for the celebration has not been finalized yet, but the festival will last between 5 and 15 days. I would like to request all the devotees who are planning on coming for the festivities to inform me by sending an email to: sacirani@yahoo.com

Let me know who you are, how many people are coming in your group and your date of arrival and departure so that we can start planning for proper accommodations for everyone (see attached accommodation and information form). You can fly to Manipur from Delhi or Kolkata. Also, if you are not an Indian citizen, you will need a visa for Manipur. We will arrange for your visa directly from Manipur. The visa costs 1600 Rupees per person and is good for 10 days. Please see the attached document (form for Manipur visa) for the information required to obtain your visa. Please pass on this information to anyone you know who is planning on coming but may not have the internet or access to this forum.

We hope this reaches you in good health and happily engaged in Srila Sripada's and Lord Krishna's service.

Praying for your blessings and hoping to see you all soon!
Hare Krishna! Jay Srila Sripada!

Your servant,
Sacirani dd



PS: While in Kolkata, we went to visit the artist who is working on making Srila Sripada's murti. He is working on a clay model of Srila Sripada's head at first. All of the devotees who went to see were quite happy with the progress the artist has made. Srila Sripada is slowly manifesting himself in his deity form. Some small adjustments still need to be made. The head was a little bigger than life size, so the artist will make a new smaller model that we may be able to see in October. The artist knows he is just a tool of the Lord and has asked for all of the disciples to pray for our master to manifest through his hands. The deity won't be ready to install for this year's Tirobhava festival.

~ Srila Sripada Ki Jay! ~

More photos on following pages...



Brahmachari Ashram



Wood columns and elephant heads for the kirtan hall



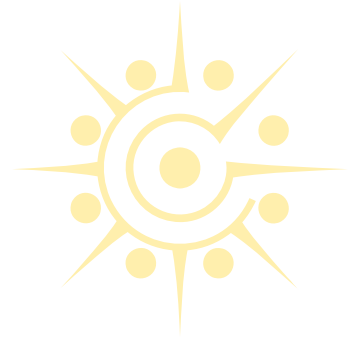
Altar doors and wooden panels placed temporarily in the temple room for the public to see on Janmastami day



A devotee salute in front of the ground floor intricately carved doors

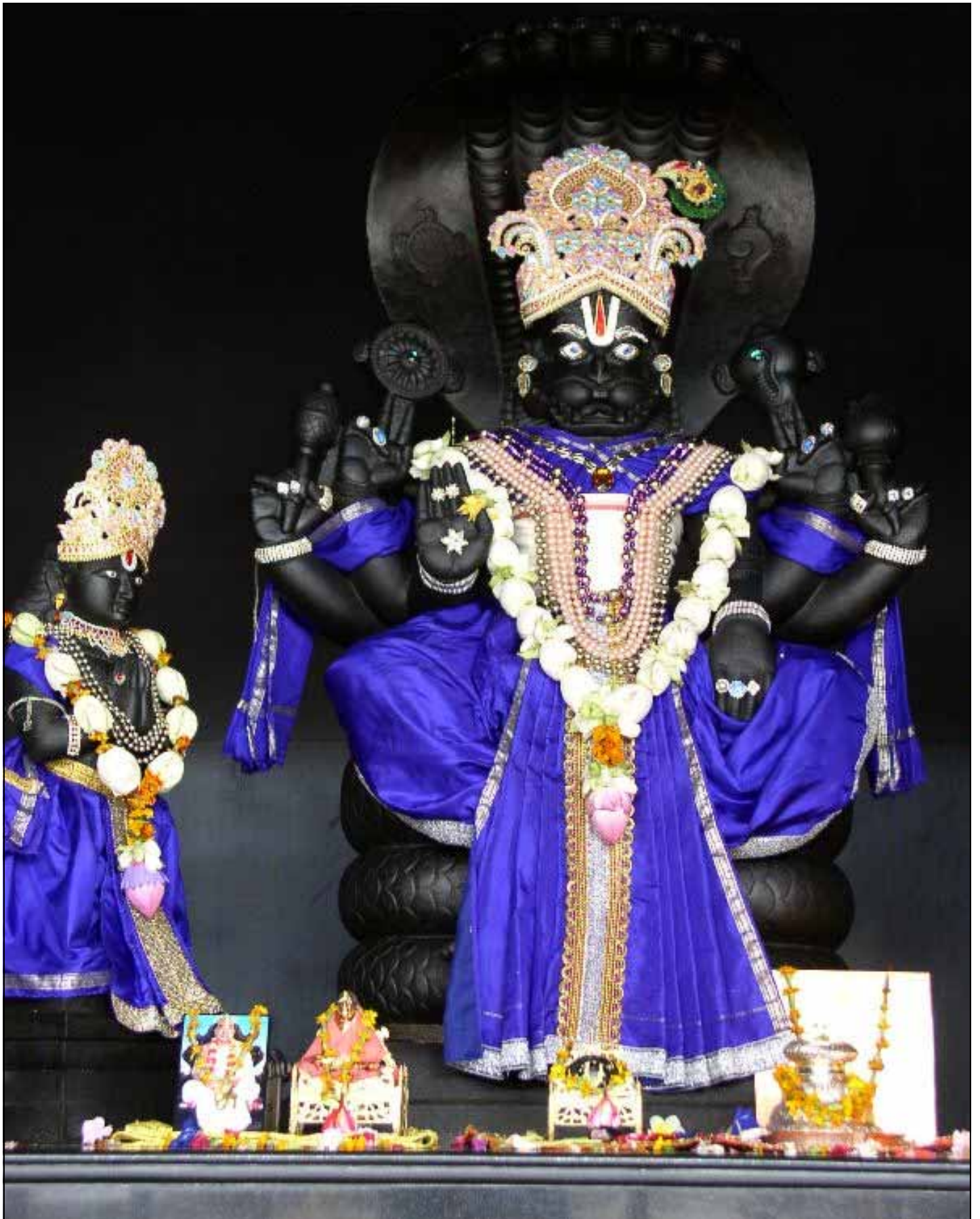


Kaliya Krishna detail on altar door



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Sri Sri Prahlad Nrisimha