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THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

~An Introduction and Special Free Gifts~



You're Not Going To Die! Live Stress Free! Don't Worry—Be Happy!

Hello fellow convict,

I'm writing to share a scientifically proven way to eliminate all the miseries in your life.

While doing time in Florida prisons, I found out how the shackles and hassles of living in confinement can handcuff our ability to hold onto the inner peace and happiness we all deserve.

How often do you feel depressed? For me, overcoming such moods is a challenge. What do you do to pick yourself up when the prison system is always trying to keep you down? **Do you know the facts of <u>life</u> that wipe away the worries of <u>death?</u>**

FREE Gifts For You

The free information you have in your hands provides profound and enlightening truths that remove all of the negative aspects of prison life. Along with this benefit, they give you the added bonus of explaining why there is no need to worry about death. Plus, you'll discover the true purpose of your existence. An opportunity to succeed in life is also included. This basket of riches is topped off with an offer of more free gifts.

Positive Changes

These gifts changed my outlook on life in ways I never thought possible. They gave me focus and direction. They showed me a path that leads to personal growth, emotional fulfillment, and spiritual deliverance. They taught me the goal of life and how to reach it. Just imagine how good you'll feel when you get these same rewards!

Don't Accept Defeat—Be Victorious

The only person who can keep you from reaching the goal of life Is <u>YOU</u>. Don't give in or give up, and you will succeed. Exploring these truths requires strength. Some of these ideas may seem strange at first, but we can't let our current beliefs hold us back. We must not create our own barriers. We can't let our doubts stop us.

We must not surrender when we face challengers. The actions and opinions of others cannot stand in our way. We must show courage and overcome all obstacles. The power to prevail is ours.

You Are Not Alone

Let's walk together. Hundreds of convicts are on this journey. I invite you to join us as we travel toward a land where every word is a song, where every step is a dance, and where every moment is eternal and filled with unmatchable bliss.

<u>Don't Serve Time — Make Time Serve Your Best Interests</u>

Convicts possess a valuable resource—Time. Wasted time can never be recovered. No one knows when his or her time will come, but it's never too late to spend our time wisely. As a friend who is reaching through to bars to you, I ask you to seriously consider these truths. Invest your time in examining them and you will feel the results. The weight on your shoulders will be lifted. The world will look brighter. Life will taste good.

Your Journey Begins Now

Today you are getting a chance to seek and find perfection. These truths will guide you on the most important journey of your life. This journey leads to a treasure of overwhelming magnitude. Its wealth is uncovered simply by conducting experiments in the science these truths are built upon.

YOU HOLD THE KEYS

By opening your mind and heart to the truths found here, you get the keys that unlock the mysteries of life. With these secrets revealed, you easily escape from all your troubles. You break the chains that bind you to an ongoing cycle of misery. These keys open the door to another dimension of reality; an amazing realm where all anxieties disappear and complete satisfaction is found. You can thrive. You can be happy. No one can stop you. No one can kill you.

Wishing you inner freedom,

Yogi

P.S. Read the next few pages. See the FREE gifts. Discover why—you're never going to die!

THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

The Freedom We Never Lose

Even if it seems that everything has been taken from us, there is one great human freedom that is always in our grasp—our right to choose our attitude in any set of circumstances; our ability to determine our own state of mind

This spiritual freedom can never be taken from you, and with it, you can choose to make life meaningful.

Dear friend,

We are very happy that this package has reached you. We are thrilled and excited by the fact that you have received it and that you are taking the time to read it as well, for this is a clear sign that your imprisonment in this world is nearing its end.

This presentation of truths has been sent to you by the International Pure Bhakti Society Prison Outreach Program. We are a group who has taken a special interest in delivering a message of hope, and a path of action that you can follow to a great treasure of peace, happiness, inner fulfillment, and a life that is meaningful in every way.

We have prepared this package especially for you, and for all other inmates who are on death row. We have chosen to do this because of the unique situation that you are in and because we want to share some information with you that has transformed the lives of countless people in ways that allowed them to discover both what the goal of life is and the means to achieve that goal.

Your Keys to Freedom

We have done our best to deliver you a collection of truths that will help you to realize the wonderful situation that we can all choose to put ourselves into. While saying this, we are fully aware that it may not be easy for someone in your position to accept these views, and this is why we ask you to keep an open mind as you carefully and thoughtfully examine what we will share with you.

As you study and meditate on these truths, you will be taking advantage of a golden opportunity to overcome all the challenges that you are facing in life. These truths also contain a key that will unlock all of the chains that bind you to any pain and unhappiness that you currently feel.

Along with freeing you from these miseries, these truths will present you with a way to discover your own unlimited storehouse of unimaginable wealth. Your magnificent fortune of incalculable value will guarantee you a state of unmatchable happiness and a sense of incredible freedom as well, for all of the things that have caused you misery in this world will never be able to touch you again.

Does all of this sound too good to be true?

Dear friend, please don't ever think, not even for a moment, that anything we will ever share with you is false, or even that it is a slight exaggeration of the truth. The simple fact is that each and every one of us is in a position to receive a gift that will set us free from the prison of suffering that we have all chosen to keep ourselves locked inside.

This last statement, that **we have all chosen to keep ourselves locked up in a prison of suffering**, may seem hard to believe at first, but if we examine the words of the great spiritual teachers who come to help us escape from this prison, we are bound to conclude that our imprisonment is definitely a result of our own choices and actions.

As You Sow, So Shall You Reap

Lord Jesus Christ teaches us:

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." (Matt. 16:27 KJV)

Lord Buddha teaches us:

"The suffering that comes upon one is self-born; it is self-

caused. If an unwise man does not understand that he is the cause, and thus accept the suffering, his miseries will grind away at him like a diamond grinds away at a hard gem." (The Dhammapada: Verse 161)

The prophet Muhammed teaches us:

"On no soul doth Allah place a burden greater than it can bear. It gets every good deed that it earns, and it suffers every ill that it earns." (The Holy Quran S.2 A.286)

A great spiritual teacher (a guru) in the ancient religious tradition of India discusses this truth in quite a bit of detail in the next quote that we will share with you. Here, he not only speaks of the need to accept that we ourselves are the cause that lies at the heart of all our suffering, but he also discusses how, by viewing our lives from the proper perspective, we exercise the spiritual freedom that we mentioned at the very beginning of this presentation, and thus, by doing so, we can take control of our attitude and determine our own state of mind.

His Holiness, **Bhakti Rakşaka Śridhara Swami** teaches

Adversities Are Mercy

'If suddenly I find myself in the prison house, then who is responsible? There are so many culprits, so many deceitful persons, and so many thieves in the prison house. If I find myself in the midst of them, then who is responsible?

'I have acquired that position myself.'

'There is also heavenly association, but instead of placing ourselves in a position where we are surrounded by pure and good hearted people we find ourselves asking, "Why am I put in the prison house, where wherever I look I see culprits? Why am I here? Why am I not in the association of heavenly souls? Who is responsible? Who?"

'In this way we must try to understand, "It is I who am

responsible for being here."

When we are sick and searching for a cure, first there must be diagnosis, then the treatment and nursing, but it must follow the diagnosis. The diagnosis is—"I AM THE CULPRIT!" and the medicine must be applied accordingly. A thorough cure and not a patch job is what will be advantageous. And the thorough wholesome treatment involves accepting this truth:'

"One who fully accepts the fact that all of his suffering was brought about by his own deeds; who thus also sees the mercy of God even in those sufferings; who thus, in all circumstances, continues to worship the Lord in his heart and with his body and words, becomes entitled to receive liberation from this world in the form of attaining the pure loving service of God."

"There is no other way of being delivered from this world. Whatever God does is for our own good. We will be redeemed if we behold His mercy in every event and in every activity. But if we try to find any defect in His work, or discover any cruelty therein, the only result will be evilness and difficulty."

'According to our karma—our previous deeds—we shall be placed in a particular environment. There the soul takes on a particular body form suitable for our karma. But we must not worry about our pasts or about what has led us to be in the situation we are now in. Instead, we must start our spiritual life from wherever we are now. We must begin our work. We must remove all the scars from our hearts and we must conquer all of the misdirected thoughts that the mind tries to entertain, for these are what make up the mental and physical encasements that we are living in.

'Nobody else is responsible for the situations we are placed in. Sometimes it may seem that an injustice is being done to us, but really, all that comes to us is a result of our own past deeds. However, because it is our nature to forget the past, we may not remember the deeds that have placed us where we are. But this fault of ours should not stop us from accepting this truth, for when we realize that all that happens to us is due to our own previous actions, we enter into the corridor that leads to true liberation.'

'This is why we should not only live in our present position without complaint, but we should also consider that all that we have faced, and even where we are today, was all a necessary part of placing us in a position where we could move upward into a more spiritually advanced position.'

'In this way we have to accept whatever adversities come to us as the grace of the Lord. We must view our lives through this positive angle of vision, where everything that we encounter is seen as being of benefit to us. We must think, "It is absolutely necessary for me to accept this view. There can never be any error in the calculations of the Lord. This test has been given to me for my benefit. To stand, to face, and to cross this opposition is my chance to make progress in my life."

'In the scriptures we are advised to face all circumstances in such an optimistic way. Then, very easily and swiftly we shall cross the walls of misunderstandings, the illusions that keep us trapped in our own, self-built, prisons of suffering, and we shall be liberated, and, of even greater value than this, we will find that our entire consciousness is absorbed in leading a life that is fully dedicated to the Lord.' (The Poetry of a Saint)

As we contemplate these truths, we will put ourselves into the position of great opportunity that we discussed in the opening of this presentation. We will accept that we are both fully responsible for our current state, and, even more importantly, we will begin to mold our consciousness in ways that will bring us right to the very threshold of happiness.

Life Is Meaningful

We are more than products of the conditions and surroundings we place ourselves into. We have the Godgiven, eternal right to choose how we will perceive our situation and how we will act and react while we are in it. We can preserve our spiritual freedom and our independence of mind, even in conditions of terrible psychic stress. Life is meaningful. We must learn to see life as meaningful regardless of our circumstances.

The Mind: Friend or Enemy?

These last truths present us with another aspect of the solution to all of our troubles for they speak of our "right to **choose"** and "our independence of mind". In both of these we find that it is the mind, which will decide how we will face, accept, and deal with every situation we face. Knowing this great truth, our spiritual teachers have also spoken to us on the critical role that the mind plays in every aspect of our lives.

Lord Buddha teaches us:

"Our life is shaped by the mind. We become what we think. All of our experiences flow through the mind." (The Dhammapada: Verse 1)

The Supreme Personality of God, Lord Krishna teaches us: "The mind can be one's friend or one's enemy. Therefore, one must use the mind to deliver himself from misery, while he refuses to allow the mind to drag him into repeated cycles of suffering in this world. For one who controls and

conquers the mind, the mind becomes a very dear friend, but for one who fails to do so, the mind becomes a great enemy." (Bhagavad Gītā 6:5-6)

Mind Control—The Means To Stop The Madness
Our teachers have also told us how we are to control the mind as well.

The Holy Bible teaches us:

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee." (Isaiah 26:3) The Prophet Muhammed teaches us:

"And to the Lord turn <u>all</u> thy attention." (The Holy Quran S.94 A.8)

The simple method of focusing the mind on the Lord is discussed in a bit more detail in the following instructions, which are again given to us by a very exalted guru from the Eastern religious science which is commonly identified as "Hinduism". His Holiness **Bhaktivedānta Nārāyana Mahārāja** teaches us:



His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhaktivedānta Nārāyana Mahārāja (Affectionately called Śrīla Gurudeva)

The focus of our minds will be determined by what we think about during our waking hours. If for those hours the mind is pondering over sense enjoyment, such as what arrangements we have made for eating and drinking, and how we will solve all of our worldly problems—then how will we be able to steadily think of the Supreme Lord? Will our minds remain steady while we worship the Lord through the process of calling His names simply because we have spent perhaps only one hour dedicated to hearing about the glories of the Supreme Lord?

The mind will certainly be absorbed in what we have thought about during the majority of our waking hours, and even while sleeping we will remember those same things. But if one remains in the association of spiritual advanced persons, who are fully absorbed in serving the Lord and discussing His glories, and during all his waking hours he applies the mind to hearing about the Lord, reading the scriptures, and serving the Lord, and he doesn't worry about any other problems, then his mind will remain steady. (Bhakti-rasāyana)

A Summary of Truths—Short and Sweet

So these are among the most basic truths that we have come to share with you. These teachings have been given to us by all of the world's great teachers, and thus we are very wise to follow their advice.

Thus far, we have shown that they teach us: Everything we experience in life, both the happiness and the misery, has arisen due to our own past actions.

Our view of life is a product of the mind, which can be both our friend and our enemy.

If we control the mind, we will be able to face and accept everything that comes to us in a peaceful way by seeing it all as a blessing from the Lord.

The best way to control the mind is to focus it on God.

This final truth is stated simply and clearly in the ancient scriptures, where we are taught:

"The Supreme Personality of God, who is the origin of all that exists, should always be remembered, and He should never be forgotten at any time. All of the rules that are contained in the scriptures should be the servants of these two principles." (Padma Purāna)

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

The truth that we are to make focusing our thoughts on God a number one priority in our lives is also reflected in the teachings of **Lord Jesus Christ**. He explains where our priorities should lie in this way:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

"No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:19-21, 24, 33)

These sets of truths make it clear that both our current thoughts and our final goal should both be directed toward the Lord and away from the temporary circumstances that we find ourselves in, for as these next sections show, everything about our lives in this world, even our so-called death, is indeed temporary and unrelated to our true selves.

While Not In Your Shoes—We All Walk Toward "Death"

Although this package has been specifically prepared for those who are on "death row," we do not want you to think that we are fully aware of what such an experience is like. We do not claim to be walking in the same shoes that you are, and yet, upon a closer look, we will find that each and every one of us is in fact facing a "death" sentence, for as we will soon explore, the higher truths of this world will reveal these facts: Both this "life" and our unavoidable "death' are but temporary stages in our ongoing existence.

Regardless of when our time to pass on is set to arrive, we are wise to rise above the situations we face, and, in sending you this package, we hope to inspire you to do so. We want

you to find joy and meaning in your life by focusing your thoughts on positive changes rather than any sufferings you are currently confronted with. Since this package has been especially prepared for those who are on "death row", we do not in any way claim to understand what it is like to be in your specific situation, and yet, studying the truths of this world, we can honestly and sincerely say that we, like you, are also facing a "death" sentence. We want you to know that we do truly feel compassion for you. At the same time, however, our purpose is to inspire you to rise above the situations we all face, and to help you find joy and meanings to your life, rather than focusing on any sufferings that accompany your current situations.

Don't believe real opportunities in life have passed. If we forget the now, then we will also forget the fact that difficulties present opportunities to grow spiritually. By disregarding the future, it becomes easy to overlook opportunities to make something positive of the now. These opportunities really do exist. We cannot give up the now. It does not really matter what we expect from life, or what we expect from God—what matters is what life and God expect from us.

The Kings Wise Choice: Accept Fate and Make Progress

We want to share a true story with you. A story that could show you a way to find that the blessings of the Lord and a golden opportunity are both being given to you, even as you await the moment when **the real you** will leave the material body behind.

There once lived a great king, who, due to a very interesting set of circumstances, found himself sentenced to die in seven days. As the emperor of the world, he had the means to avoid this sentence, but instead, he chose to see it as a blessing, for it afforded him a chance to give up all his connections to this world, so that he could prepare for what was to come.

In this regard, he received the following instructions:

"My dear king, if you want to be fearless in meeting your death next week, then you must immediately begin the process of hearing about, glorifying, and remembering the names, forms, qualities, associates, and pastimes of the Supreme Personality of God." (Śrīmad Bhāgavatam 2.1.35)

By giving up his attachments to the family and friends, that were all related to his temporary material body, he was able to feel no remorse as he left these behind and dedicated his final days to hearing about the Lord. In this way, he could discover who he really was, who God really is, the relationship that the Lord has with all of us, and how he could enter into a permanent relationship with the Lord and thus avoid taking another birth in the prison of illusions and miseries that most of us refer to as "our lives".

By his example, this great king showed us the most valuable way to spend our time in this world. No matter how much time we have left here, be it 7 years, 7 months, 7 weeks, 7 days, 7 hours, 7 minutes, or 7 seconds, we should devote it to hearing about the Lord, developing a loving relationship with Him, and serving Him with all our hearts.

It is not the outer circumstances that we face, be they peaceful or full of stress, that determine the feelings we experience in our inner self. The experiences of our inner state arise as a result of our own free decisions.

Even when we are confronted with suffering, we still have choices to make. We still have a chance to achieve something great, if not for others, and then surely for ourselves, for by our own inner strength we can rise above our outward fate.

Even if we were at one time convinced that our situation was hopeless, we can change our view, and we can change ourselves. And it is in this change that we can find a meaning to our life. We can feel excited to make this change, and we can feel proud to change tragedy into triumph.

The Deathless Soul—The Eternal You

"Life" and "Death" - What do these words mean? When we examine them in the light of the scriptures, we find that most of us totally misunderstand the spiritual truths behind these words.

The Supreme Personality of God teaches us:

"There was never a time when I did not exist, nor you, nor anyone else; nor in the future shall any of us cease to be.

"The real 'you', the soul, is simply trapped within a material body, and just as it remained there, unchanged, while the material body changed, from childhood, to youth, to old age, it will similarly remain unchanged as it passes from the body at the time of 'death'. An intelligent person is not bewildered by these changes." (Bhagavad Gītā 2:12-13)

"You should know that even though the soul pervades and animates the entire material body, it is imperishable and indestructible. No one is able to destroy the soul." (Bhagavad Gītā 2:17)

"The soul neither takes birth nor does he die, nor is he affected by the repeated growth and dwindling of the body. The soul is unborn, eternal and ever existing. Though he has existed forever, he remains ever youthful. When the body is destroyed, the soul is not annihilated." (Bhagavad Gītā 2:20)

"Just as a person discards old garments and acquires new ones, the soul, in a similar way, gives up old bodies and accepts new ones." (Bhagavad Gītā 2:22)

"For one who is born, death is certain, and for one who still has karma to face, birth is certain upon his death as well; therefore, it is not proper to grieve about that which is unavoidable." (Bhagavad Gītā 2:27)

The Lifeless Lump

When we properly understand all these truths, we will find that the material body is never truly "alive" at all. What really takes place is that a soul, which is living within a sperm, enters the egg, and this combination seems to "create life". And even then, as the body grows, the material itself is never alive. The material body is nothing more than a lifeless lump of matter. When the soul is present, the body "appears" to live, but when the soul departs, its true condition, its lifelessness, is immediately apparent.

What we think of as "life" and "death", therefore, only applies to the temporary conditions of material bodies. If something is never truly alive, how can it die?

The true us, the soul, who we really are, can never "die", nor were we ever "born".

"Life" is a temporary state, where a soul is animating a lump of matter. "Death" is a temporary state where that same lump of matter is no longer inhabited by a soul.

Eternally Existing Consciousness

The soul is an eternally existing spark of consciousness that is always aware of its own existence. If you were asked, "Do you exist?" you would surely say that you did, and it would be these two qualities of the soul, its existence and its awareness that would allow you to confidently answer this question. As you absorb these truths, you will also be able to confidently say "yes" if you are asked such things as, "Have you always

existed?" and, "Will you continue to exist after you "die"?" for you will know that "you" will never die at all.

Change Is But A Moment Away

As humans, we are able to determine for ourselves how we will experience our surroundings. We do not simply exist. We decide what our existence will be. We determine what we will become in the next moment.

We are blessed by God with an unchecked freedom to change at any moment.

A List of Realities

All of the truths that we have shared with you are of critical importance, and the next set of teachings will bring them all together so that you will be able to fully appreciate just how vital they are.

The four great truths we've shared, in simple terms, are these:

- 1. We reap what we sow. The laws of karma ensure that all our actions lead to reactions; therefore, all of the events that take place in our lives have arisen as a result of our past activities.
- 2. We must control the mind, and the best way to do this is by focusing it on God.
- 3. Our souls are eternal. Our material bodies are temporary. We will continue to exist when the material body perishes.
- 4. The Supreme Lord is kind and merciful, and He arranges everything for our benefit.

We should keep these truths in mind as we examine and contemplate this next set of teachings.

We have told you that the soul takes on a new body when it departs the material one that it now resides in, and now, in these next quotes, we will tell you what factor determines what our next destination will be.

As You Think-So Shall You Be

The Supreme Lord teaches us:

"The state of mind that one is absorbed in at the time of death, and whatever one remembers at that time, determine the state that the soul will next be in. This is due to the fact that the mind was absorbed in that state of consciousness." (Bhagavad Gītā 8:6)

În explaining this verse, **Śrīla Bhaktivedānta Nārāyana Mahārāja** tells us:

"The scriptures relate the story of a man who attained the body of a woman in this next life, all because he was thinking of a woman at the time of death. Actually, whatever we do in our lives influences our consciousness at the time of death, and we take another birth accordingly. This is why those who are engaged in serious spiritual practices should chant the Holy Names of the Lord and engage in pure devotional activities in this life, so that, at the time of death, their intense remembrance of the Supreme Lord will guide them on the path of good fortune."

All of the truths we've shared come together in these teachings. Our future state is determined by our thoughts at the time when the soul leaves the body. This is why we must control the mind by keeping it focused on the Lord. If we can accomplish this goal, at that critical moment, then we will personally experience the amazingly wonderful mercy of the Supreme Lord, for He also tells us:

"Whoever leaves his body, with his thoughts fully absorbed in remembering Me, is sure to attain an eternal, bliss-filled, fully aware state of existence which will be much like My own. Of this there is no doubt." (Bhagavad Gītā 8:5) "By engaging the mind in the practice of constantly

remembering Me, and not permitting it to wander anywhere else, one will surely attain My eternal association." (Bhagavad Gītā 8:7)

"For a yogi engaged in constant daily remembrance of Me, devoid of other thoughts, <u>I</u> am easily attainable." (Bhagavad Gītā 8:14)

"The great souls who attain Me never take another temporary material birth, which is always a source of misery, for they have attained the highest perfection." (Bhagavad Gītā 8:15)

"All planets in the material universes, from the lowest to the highest, are places where the miseries of repeated birth and death take place, but one who attains Me never takes birth again." (Bhagavad Gītā 8:16)

Finding Freedom By Choice

We ask you to study and deeply contemplate these truths. As you can see by what the Lord tells us in verse 8:14, He has given us an opportunity to "easily" attain Him.

The choice is ours. We determine our own future destination.

In the free lessons that we will offer you, the path that one can follow to ensure that we are able to remember the Lord is explained, and thus we encourage you to request this course. If however, for any reason whatsoever you choose not to request it, we still beg you to always remember this last set of quotes, for if you do, and the time comes where you are definitely facing imminent departure from your material body, these truths may help you realize that you have been blessed with a golden opportunity.

Most people arrive at the moment of "death" with little warning, or totally unexpectedly. With no time to prepare for their departure, their thoughts may be on any of an unlimited number of things, and thus their futures will be written by an uncontrolled mind.

If however, we are blessed enough to know that this moment is nearing, or upon us, then we can take advantage of this situation. We can use that opportunity to control the mind and focus our thoughts on the Supreme Lord, for if we do, He will fulfill His promise, and we will attain His eternal association.

We pray that these truths enter your heart.

More Free Gifts

Along with the truths that we have shared with you in this presentation, we have also included the first lesson of a free study course, which we will send to anyone who requests it. Our humble request is that you read everything in this package, and that you also re-read it, study it, meditate on the truths it presents, and honestly and openly search your feelings and your consciousness to determine if what we have presented to you has had a positive impact on you. Then, if it has, we ask you to complete the questionnaire that you will find at the end of the lesson and return it to us at the address shown there.

If you would like to know a little about what this course offers, we can tell you that it answers the most important questions we can ask, such as:

Who is God? What does He look like? What does God do with His time? Who am I? What is my purpose? What is the goal of life; and how do I reach it?

If we do not hear from you, we will not be sending you any more information, but if you do respond, we will do several things for you. We will sign you up to receive free monthly lessons of our course; we will send you free books when we

can; and, if you wish, we will connect you with a spiritual pen pal who can help you to further explore and understand the answers to life's greatest questions.

We Are Your Friendly Neighbors

In addition to this, there is a very special reason that you are receiving this pack. Although our Prison Outreach Program has volunteers in various parts of the world, we also have a very dedicated group of supporters and team members in Alachua, Florida. Because of their proximity to the prisons in Union County, several members have become registered volunteers with the Florida Department of Corrections, and one of these members of our team has agreed to make personal, cell-front visits to those inmates on death row in Union County.

Should you become interested in the truths of the philosophy that we are presenting to you, and thus wish to meet someone who has studied this philosophy for many years, please contact our representative below. He is willing to meet with you for discussions, and to answer any personal questions you may have. You may write directly to him, and, if you decide to do so, please tell him a little bit about your experiences with your studies, and why you would like to meet with him. He will do his best to respond to your letter and to arrange a meeting with you as well. You may contact:

Ronald Smith 13400 NW 140th St. #1502 Alachua, FL 32615-6185

Our Thanks, Our Prayers, and Our Final Request

As we near the end of our presentation, we want to extend our appreciation and gratitude to you. We want to thank you for taking the time to read this and for allowing us to share these great truths with you.

Our teachers have told us that we have a responsibility to reach out to others in order to try to share the answers to the great questions of life with them, and in doing so, to share the mercy of the Lord as well. Therefore, by reading what we have shared with you, you have given us an opportunity to serve our teachers by following the instructions they have given us, and for this, we are truly thankful.

We pray that you develop the peaceful and controlled state of mind that comes with accepting that every situation is a manifestation of the Lord's mercy, and we want you to know that we will do everything that we can to help you along on a spiritual journey that will lead you to these truths.

In humility, we will also ask you again to try to seriously study these truths, and we earnestly hope to hear from you so that we may provide you with more information and become your spiritual friends as well.

The Final Analysis

The way a man accepts fate and suffering gives him an opportunity, even in tough circumstances, to add a deeper meaning to his life. He can, by his own free will, innerstrength, and self-determination remain brave, dignified, and unselfish.

In the final analysis, it is clear—the sort of person you become is the result of an inner decision, and not the result of outside influences alone. Fundamentally then, anyone can, under any circumstances, decide what shall become of him, both mentally and spiritually.

Who is God? What does He look like?
What does God do with His time?
Who am I? What is my purpose?
What is the goal of life; and how do I reach it?

The answers to all of life's greatest questions are available to each and every one of us. Please write for our free study course.

We are, the servants of God's servants, the International Pure Bhakti Yoga Society Prison Outreach Program Service Team.

<u>Voices From Behind the Bars</u> Feedback From Course Participants

I always thought being in prison was terrible, but then I found out that the state pen was nothing compared to the much more dangerous and deadly prison of being trapped in a physical body. While learning this, I was taught some good news as well: Our confinement in this life is only temporary. The walls of illusion that keep us here can be easily scaled. When we discover and apply the science that eternally frees our souls from the prisons of this world, all of our miseries will permanently cease.

A convict: Union C.I., Florida

In the past, the word "yoga" only brought the idea of exercise or wrapping the body up like a pretzel, and "meditation" was all about shutting the mind down. But now, thanks to the Pure Bhakti Yoga Society, I know that yoga is a spiritual discipline designed to connect us with God, and that meditation is meant to shift the focus of the active mind by replacing meaningless thoughts with the beauty of God's names, forms, qualities, and activities.

A Florida prisoner



This powerful painting depicts the embodied soul as it continually passes from boyhood to youth to old age, and similarly passes into another body at death. Being engaged in materialistic activities, the living soul entangles himself in this cycle. This entails the chain of birth and death in the species of life: the aquatics, the vegetables, the reptiles, the birds, the beasts, the uncivilized man, and then again the human form, which in turn provides a great opportunity – the chance to get out of the cycle of action. This human form of life is a most valuable asset for the living entity who can utilize it for solving the problems of life and understanding the science of the soul's journey to freedom.

When one takes advantage of this opportunity, he is assured of at least receiving a human form of life in the next birth, or he may be liberated completely and go home to God. By committing sinful activities or by misusing this opportunity, one is degraded to lower species of life in which he is punished by the laws of nature.

The skeleton in a black dress represents death and the woman next to him is birth. The man whose back is facing us has just passed through all the species of life to finally become a human, but he is putting his toe in the water, which represents the ocean of material existence, while he considers the possibility of diving in again.

The sun represents the soul, who is not shining as brilliantly as is can shine, due to it being behind the cloud which forms when we are attached to temporary material things. The infinity symbol at center represents the fact that this change of body and wandering through the various species has been going on for countless billions of years, since beginningless time. The stars and planets within the infinity sign represent the fact that we are receiving bodies in the various countless universes.

If by great fortune, that soul comes into contact with great spiritual teachers, and he follows the path they have given, he can escape the imprisonment of temporary material body and enter in a permanent love-drenched relationship with the Supreme Lord. This path, which can be followed by all, is the easiest way to complete the journey to freedom.

Your Human Birth Is Rare Take Advantage of It

"After many births and deaths, one achieves a rare human birth, which, although temporary, affords one the opportunity to attain the highest perfection. Thus, a sober human being should quickly endeavor for the ultimate perfection of life, as long as his body, which is always subject to death, has not fallen down and died. After all, sense gratification is available to even those who are trapped in the most abominable species of life. On the other hand, the opportunity to develop an understanding of God, and to lovingly serve Him, is only possible for a human being." (Śrīmad Bhāgavatam 11.9.29)