

Dear Friends,

Please accept the blessings of Sri Sri Radha Sarat Vihari! I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well.

Diwali, celebrating the return of Rama and Sita to Ayodhya, is a time of festivity, prayer and reflection. In honor of this day, the Radha Krishna temple is planning an exceptionally wonderful "Diwali-Govardhana Puja" festival!

The melodious prayer and song in the temple will be enhanced by the beauty of a candlelight arotika and enchanting decor. In this atmosphere, Sri Sri Radha Sarat Vihari invite you to come before Them with your prayers for devotion and offerings for peace and prosperity.

The evening will begin with a "Go-puja", a small festival in honor of the cow. Bhava, a 150 lb. brown swiss calf from the Gita-Nagari Community, will join us in the temple. There, she will be garlanded with sweet-smelling flowers, decorated with ornaments, and fed fresh grasses. Bhava will also be outside earlier in the day for the pleasure of the children.

Just as the cow and her worship are very important to Krishna, so the worship of Govardhana Hill is also very dear to Him. In fact, Lord Krishna personally inaugurated this celebration 5,000 years ago in His home, the village of Vrindaban.

Lord Sri Krishna instructed the men of the village, "Prepare very nice foodstuffs of all descriptions from grains and ghee. Prepare rice, dahl, then halavah, pakora, puri, and all kinds of milk prepararions like sweet rice, rabhi, sweetballs, sandesa, rasagulla, and laddhu..."

When the preparations were complete, the worship of Govardhana Hill began. All the inhabitants of Vrindaban assembled together, decorated their

cows and gave them grass. The gopis also dressed themselves very luxuriantly and chanted the glories of Krishna's pastimes. Keeping the cows in front, they began to circumambulate Govardhana Hill while the presiding brahmanas offered prasadam and chanted Vedic hymns.

From that day to this, Govardhana puja (also known as the Annakuta ceremony) is still going on in all the temples of the worldwide Krishna Conscious Movement.

In the mood of this festival, we would like to invite all of our friends who are strict vegetarians (and good cooks) to prepare vegetarian dishes to offer to Lord Krishna. The dishes should be made with fine quality vegetarian ingredients (no garlic, onion, or mushrooms please). Also, no one, including the cook, should taste the preparations before they are offered to Krishna. Cooking for the Lord is a unique opportunity to increase your personal loving exchange with Him.

At the temple, the devotees will prepare a large "Govardhana Hill" out of prasadam. Everyone will be invited to offer their dishes and circumambulate the Hill. Then the pujaris will distribute hundreds of sweets and savories to one and all in a traditional "prasadam throw". Finally, we will serve a sumptuous prasadam feast to everyone.

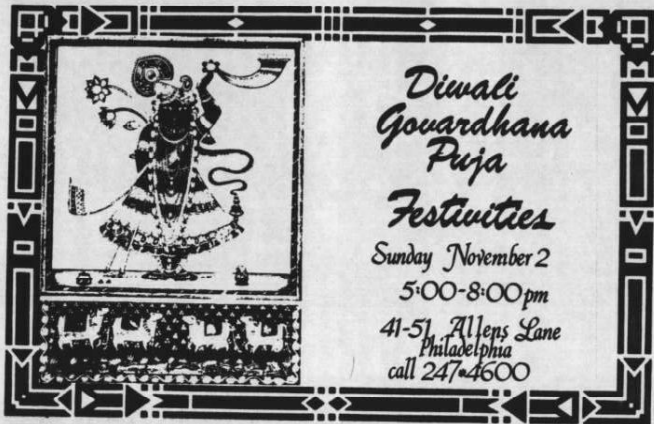
I would like to invite you to take part in all these transcendental festivities, as they promise to be events well worth attending.

I hope to see you there!

Sincerely yours,

Shyam Sundar Mahajan
M.D., F.A.C.E.P.

Shyam Sundar Mahajan
Festival Chairman



*Diwali
Gouardhana
Puja*

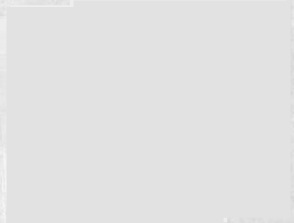
Festivities

Sunday November 2

5:00-8:00 pm

*41-51 Allens Lane
Philadelphia*

call 247-4600



Dear Jose and Priscilla:
I do hope you can
visit us and enjoy
an evening of cultural
festivities.

Sincerely,
Bali Maharaj